

At 21.00 on August 31, the ambassadors of England, France and the USA were invited to the Wilhelmstrasse, to the ausamt, and they were acquainted with the German proposals. At the same time, the proposals were transmitted over the Berlin radio with an explanation that the Fuhrer was going to make them to the Poles, but there was no one to make them ... There were only a few hours left before the start of hostilities ... THIS IS BEHAVIOR

OF BRITAIN ... But there was also France ... There was Italy ... And, in Ultimately, there was Poland... In Berlin, its ambassador Lipsky did not show any signs of his existence, but life went on... Written and telephone dispatches flew from Berlin and to Berlin, from four other capitals and to these four capitals... Therefore, let's see now on the behavior of the French... On August 25, four hours after Henderson's reception, Hitler spoke with the French ambassador Coulondre, telling him roughly the same thing as the Englishman. And what else could he say if the Wehrmacht was made, and the Poles did not change their position in four hours? Later, Ribbentrop said that on the last two days of August, England had the opportunity,

with a single nod of the head in Warsaw, to eliminate the crisis and thereby eliminate the danger of war. This

So...

But the same applies to France to no lesser extent ... After all, she also gave guarantees to the Poles, and it was her, and not English, divisions that were supposed to strike at the "aggressor" from the West ...

And now Robert Coulondre was sitting in front of Hitler, and he was talking he already had something different from what was declared to the British ambassador, because it concerned the specific relationship of two old rivals:

- I, Mr. Ambassador, will regret if France and Germany are drawn into this war. After my official renunciation of Alsace and Lorraine, there are no conflict issues between the two neighbors. And I ask you to convey this to Mr. Daladier ... The short half-hour audience ended, Hitler had already risen from his chair, but Coulondre meaningfully detained him with a gesture of his hand and asked:

"I would like to reply at once to some of your statements, Herr Reich Chancellor.

And a flowery speech flowed, ending like this: "In such a critical situation as this, Herr Reich Chancellor, misunderstanding between countries is the most terrible thing. And to make the matter clear, I give you the word of honor of a French officer that the French army will fight on the side of Poland. If this country is attacked, but.... - here Coulondre raised his voice even more - I can also give you my word of honor that the French government is ready to do everything possible to maintain peace and become a mediator in matters of settlement in Warsaw. So, instead of decisive pressure on the Poles,

Germany was offered to be content not even with a piece of paper from the French, but with the "word of honor" of the ambassador. France, together with England, itself provoked the Poles - and so provocative - into arrogant contempt for the legitimate German interests, and now she was stuffing herself into "intermediaries" ... And from the English Island and from the

English Channel towards the Polish theater of military only political, but also meteorological fogs ... And all the potential successes of the Luftwaffe Goering could completely drown in them.

Well,

yes ... And after all, what is vile and vile ... Coulondre knew perfectly well that the French army was not going to fight, but intended to sit out on the "Maginot Line" (which she soon began to do), that on August 19, the French Foreign Minister Bonnet informed his to his English colleague Halifax that "I am happy that a political agreement with Poland has not yet been concluded" ... And on August

24, the same Bonnet sent Cambon, Chargé d'Affaires of France in the UK, a cipher, where he wrote that he would make a "very urgent demarche" to the Poles so that those "refrained from countering with weapons if the Senate of the Free City announced the annexation of Danzig to the Reich ..." Bonnet explained: ***"It is important that Poland does***

not take an aggressive position, which would prevent the implementation of some of our pacts! .. "

In other words, the French were very afraid that the Poles would rush headlong into battle and give grounds to qualify themselves as

aggressor, not as a victim. And France pledged to help Poland only in the last case ... This is how

elite Paris, which was becoming truly **global city**, wanted to "do everything possible to preserve the peace" ...

They did not strive for peace, but they pulled rubber in order to turn the very possible success of the German offensive into a possible failure with the help of autumn weather (or rather bad weather) ...

Hitler understood and knew all this, Hitler explained it all to Coulondre, and now he simply asked him

angrily: "Why did you then give Poland carte blanche to act according to its

understanding?" Coulondr opened his mouth, but the Fuhrer did not let him speak, but extended his hand

in farewell with the words: "It pains me to realize the need to enter the war against France, but this decision does not

depend on me ... Dear reader! Let me remind you that this happened on August 25, when Coulondre could (and was obliged!) to bring Lipsky to the Führer by the ear for the Pole to listen with both ears to the German

proposals ... Instead, Daladier sent an answer to the Führer on the 26th, where he assured that cooperation and pompously called Hitler "the leader who guides Germany along the path of peace to the full fulfillment of her mission in the common cause of

civilization" ... But what an amusing thing! Daladier warned Hitler about the "danger of social consequences" in the event of war ... It sounded strange ... The leaders of the Comintern - adherents of the "world fire" - were confident and assured the Soviet people that the war between Germany and the USSR would lead, they say, to a "victorious proletarian uprising of the German of the proletariat"... Well, this could still be understood somehow... But the bourgeois Daladier could not count on such a variant? On August 25, he banned the organs of the Communist Party "Humanite" and "Se Soir" and led the matter in general to the banni

Who, according to the Frenchman, was supposed to create "social consequences" for the Fuhrer? Hitler did not flirt when he spoke of the great confidence of the masses in him. So

what did Daladier mean?

Having asked this question, let us temporarily put it aside and
Let's get back to the French Prime Minister's message...

"If Poland is attacked," wrote this type, called in his homeland "a Vaucluse bull with snail horns," "the honor of France will demand that she fulfill her obligations" ... And this one was talking about "honor"! "Wouldn't France act in the same way if, for example, Marseille were suddenly torn away from his native country and his return to France were denied?" - objected Hitler in a reply message. And was he wrong? "DEMOCRATIC" Europe was leading things to war, but Germany had a "totalitarian" ally - Italy. However, problems arose with her too... On the

24th, Ribbentrop returned to Berlin at 1900, and the next day, on the 25th, he spoke with Ciano. On the same day, Hitler telegraphed Mussolini that he would go to Poland in the coming days and asked for understanding from the Italian side.

Understanding does not mean helping, and on the 26th at 13.00 Mussolini, through **his ambassador** Attolico, telegraphed Hitler in response that if Germany attacked Poland, and England and France took retaliatory measures, Italy would not participate in the war ... The Duce wrote: ***"In one of the most difficult***

moments of my life, I must tell you that Italy is not ready for war ... " The ally complained that the air force would only have enough fuel for three weeks of hostilities, the situation with the supply of the army and raw materials is not the best ...

However, in the Duce's letter there was a reservation - the speech of Italy perhaps if ... "If ..."

the Duce was not devoid of wit and humor ... Previously, he warned Hitler that Italy needed at least three years to prepare for war, but now he was ready to start it all the same if ... Germany in the near future put the military materials according to the specified list (later it was called "applications for molybdenum") ... Not everything, I must say, was fine with this application ... It was obviously exorbitant, but it was so on the recommendation ...

the German ambassador in Rome, Mackensen, who was opposed to the war. The step cannot be said to be patriotic ...

As a result, Italy, among other things, requested 7 million tons of oil, 6 million tons of coal, 2 million tons of steel, a million tons of timber, seventeen thousand military vehicles and 150 anti-aircraft batteries with service personnel ... The list "pulled" by weight 17 million tons (17 thousand thousand-ton echelons), and this "burden" was, of course, unbearable for the Reich. Ciano himself admitted that such a list "would have killed a bull if he could read".

Additionally, the situation was falsified by the Italian ambassador in Berlin, Attolico. When Ribbentrop asked him when the Italians would need all this, the ambassador replied (**on his own initiative**): "Immediately, before the outbreak of hostilities" ...

Bernardo Attolico was an economist by training and could see that his answer was technically ridiculous. However, in order to understand this, special education was not required. That is, it was a poorly veiled refusal.

Hitler, of course, understood this and answered with restraint, reassuring Mussolini - they say, I understand the position, and whatever is done is all for the better ... His nervousness was reflected in the speed of the answer - three hours after receiving the first

message from Rome. The letter went there at 16.00, and at 18.35 the Duce replied: **"Since Germany cannot supply us with the necessary raw materials, I cannot take an active part**

in the conflict ..." Mussolini, however, also offered mediation - he seemed to like this business from Munich ... He was sincere, but he did not take into account the time factor. Half an hour later, Hitler received that answer from Daladier, where it was said about the "high mission" of the Fuhrer ... And the Frenchman completely took into account the time factor ...

By midnight on the 26th, Hitler replied to the Duce: **"I am aware that Italy cannot speak. Before the start of hostilities, one should create the impression of the possibility of Italian intervention and tie down forces! Then I will be able to solve the "Eastern" question and in the winter I will appear on the Western Front with forces not inferior to the Anglo-Fre**

In Rome, it was received at 9 am on the 27th. But in this capital, dates and dates no longer mattered. The Danzig problem of the Italians is not

worried, and they, of course, did not want to get involved in the conflict. Hitler was disappointed, but he hoped to deal with the Poles himself ... And he had every reason to do so ... But

there were reasons for doubts ... By August 28, the Fuhrer was already extremely exhausted. Hoarse, distracted, surrounded by guards from the SS, he held a meeting at 17.30 in the Imperial Chancellery with the deputies of the Reichstag and leading figures of the party. There were

Himmler, Heydrich, Wolf, Goebbels, Bormann... - The situation is very serious... The minimum requirements: the return of Danzig and the solution of the Corridor issue. Maximum - according to the military situation.

He was asked:

"War is inevitable?" - If

the minimum requirements are not met - yes! he replied. - A war, and a cruel one... As long as I'm alive, there will be no question of capitulation... - Is the pact with the

Russians not a capitulation? — The pact is misunderstood by the party. It's a pact with Satan to cast out the devil...

Hitler was cautious - the environment was "ideological", party ... But at the end of the speech, the applause was thin and clearly "by order." Even in the party, which was hostile to the communists, not everyone attributed Russia to the enemies.

It remains to be said about the contacts of the Germans with the Poles ... But what can be said

about what is not? Nevertheless, I will talk about the mood of the Poles and their position, illuminated from a somewhat unusual angle, a little later. And if we keep in mind the traditional angles, that is, their behavior with the British, French, Russians and - even without contacts - the Germans, then it could be described in one word: "Idiocy!"

If the need arises, the characteristics of two words, the assessment expanded to the words: "Insolent idiocy!"

Recalling the assessment of Poland itself by one competent American journalist who knows it well, four words could be cited: "A gunpowder factory run by madmen" ...

Well, all right - England and France did not want to deprive Poland of guarantees and thereby incited her to political madness and to war with the Germans. But you also had to have your own mind, realizing that it was time for Poland to forget about what was not rightfully given to her twenty years ago

at Versailles ... But the mind is also like the freshness of sturgeon in Bulgakov's novel ... Or it is ... Or it is

not. YES, EVERYTHING in the last week of August was spinning even more cool than the last one...

Moreover, in addition to Chamberlain and Hitler, Halifax and Ciano, Ribbentrop and Henderson, Daladier and Mussolini, Colonel Beck and Birger Dahlerus, such persons as Pope Pius XII were involved in the process ...

And here I digress a little, without departing from the topic, however ... On May 13, 1917, the Italian aristocrat, Master Eugenio Pacelli was consecrated to the rank of bishop, and on May 18 he went to Berlin to head the papal embassy in Bavaria and Prussia with a residence in Munich. Soon the forty-

year-old nuncio, skiing on the slopes of the Alps on his days of rest with the charming young nun Josephine Lennert, knew German almost like his native Italian ...

He stayed intermittently in Germany until 1930, when Pope Pius XI appointed him Secretary of State for the Vatican on 10 February. The origin,

inclinations and connections of Cardinal Pacelli, as well as his very systemic role, clearly betrayed his belonging to the Golden Elite of the world. His patron, Pius XI, who became pope in 1922, was a staunch enemy of the USSR—whose education coincided with his election to the holy throne. And Pius XI remained faithful to the policy of German expansion towards the USSR until the end of his days. This end came for the 82-

year-old pope on February 10, 1939 at half past five in the morning - on the eve of a speech in support of fascism. Pacelli was thinner ... On March 14,

1937, Pius XI's encyclical ***"Mitbrennender Sorge"*** was published, the author of which was his

Secretary of State. Soon, the NSDAP weekly *Völkischer Beobachter* rated it as follows: "Jews, Czechs, Frenchmen and Freemasons unconditionally applaud the Pope's last encyclical..." But not everything is so simple and clear with the Roman Catholic hierarchs... helped the Nazis even before they came to power, prepared and by the efforts of ... Pacelli. After all, the Fuhrer came to power as an anti-communist, and this, under Pius XI, was almost a pass to Catholic paradise.

On March 1, 1939, light white smoke rose from the papal palace. Straw was added to the bonfire, on which ballots were traditionally burned, and this meant that the new pope was elected by a council of 63 cardinals.

63-year-old (according to the cardinal - for each year lived) Eugenio Pacelli became Pope Pius XII ... And immediately - already in a new capacity - continued the line of the Vatican on ...

No, I, a sinful mortal, will not risk determining exactly what future he wants the new pope to look into. But I can tell you some facts ... The Vatican did not want a war

that could destroy Catholic Poland and further weaken Catholic Italy. Therefore, a friend of, for example, Count Ciano, the Jesuit Tacci Venturi, influenced secular Rome precisely in the sense that the Duce looked at the conflict "from window"...

On the other hand, ex-Pacelli tried to influence the Poles. But even the Holy Pope was not a decree for the Polish elite ... At one time - which is little known - the episcopate refused to bury not just anyone, but Marshal Pilsudski in the crypt of the Wawel Cathedral in Krakow on the grounds that he himself declared himself a Protestant in order to marry one of his three wives, a Protestant.

Not a very faithful son of the church (but still a big ladies' man) was Colonel Julius Beck, the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs. At the most tense moment before the war, the papal nuncio in Warsaw was able to get to Beck only by phone, but in response he heard: "Tell dad that Hitler is afraid of us and he has reason to be afraid of us" ...

And the pope, in agreement with the Duce, put forward the idea of a peace conference on Poland. The plan included, among other things,

a referendum under international control and generally resembled German proposals ... Beck waved it aside, and on August 31 - even before the war, Cardinal Mallione remarked: "Even if this is just a straw, then Colonel Beck is to blame for not grasping it" ...

Valerio Valeri, the nuncio in Paris, did not achieve much success either, although Bonnet formally supported

him. But that's not all... The secretary of Pius XII, the Jesuit Leiber, received the right to any actions and contacts. He quickly went to Dahlerus, who had a residence in the Esplanade Hotel in Berlin, and through him to Goering. There

seemed to be an understanding here, but... But Leiber also visited such a son of the Catholic Church as the Polish ambassador to Berlin, known to us Jozef Lipsky... Although he was sitting like a mouse, how can one escape the holy gaze? Yes, and the Jesuit!

Leiber, however, did not come to Lipsky alone, but with Dahlerus.

"Isn't it time for you to change your position, Mr. Lipsky?" — asked the bearing Swedish "king".

And Lipsky's answer - also, alas, little known - was heard in strange unison with Daladier's warning:

- If a war breaks out between Germany and Poland, then a revolution will break out in Germany, and Polish troops will march into Berlin ... Well, yes .. But
what

kind of "revolution" in Berlin were Daladier and the Polish ambassador hinting at? A? And

here we need to once again recall the friends of von Trott zu Soltz - the diplomat brothers Kordtach ... Until

January 30, 1933, when Hitler became Reich Chancellor, opposition to him was open, and he was opposed both on the left - by the communists, and on the right - by respectable nationalists and just aristocrats. The aristocrats hated the communists and wanted to keep the regime of power of the elite, but Hitler was not suitable for them either. Therefore, after January 30, the hidden aristocratic opposition to Hitler and the Nazi regime was not so small ... After all, in Germany there was such a part of the elite, for which the right and opportunity to live, not particularly bothering themselves with public

duties and responsibilities, in an atmosphere of subtle conversations and fine wines, rotation in high spheres on all parallels and meridians of the Earth ... Von

Tropzu Soltz and other "backgrounds", on the one hand, were confidently built into the regime, and on the other hand, were not away to destroy it ... So, Erich Kordt, born in 1903, by 1939 was an SS Sturmbannführer, head of the "Ribbentrop office" in the ausamt, personal secretary to the minister ... His brother

Theodor was an adviser to the London embassy and, on duty, was closely, sometimes daily contact with actually the first (at least in professional terms) person of the Foreign Office - the Permanent Under-Secretary, Lord Robert Vansittart. And far beyond his duty, he and his brother, who was coming to London, informed the Englishman, and through him, Halifax, on all the more or less important issues of the foreign policy of the Reich - including Hitler's negotiations on an alliance with Mussolini, plans for an agreement with the USSR, and so on ... They are gave recommendations to London - for example, to put pressure on Mussolini ... The Central European sector of the British "Secret

Intelligence Service" was then led by Captain Payne West (we will meet with him later) ... 54-year-old West has been a career intelligence officer since the First World War. After her, he moved to The Hague, was well known at the court of Queen Wilhelmina and often visited the north of Germany. He moved in the circles of the German nobility and was known as the "man with a monocle" ... He was engaged in advertising and the production of

pharmaceuticals - an occupation not the most aristocratic, but in Europe he was accepted as a representative of the upper strata of English society, and with good connections. There were, it turns out, for this reason ... In 1938, Best

ensured a meeting of the future chief

of military intelligence of MI6, Sir Stuart Menzies, with the emissary of General Ludwig Beck, then Chief of the General Staff of the Ground Forces, who came from a family of a major industrialist. Beck was already planning a conspiracy of the military-political leadership of Germany against Hitler.

In the negotiations of 1938, Beck's emissary offered the British to exchange the overthrow of the Führer for England's refusal of certain conditions of the Treaty of Versailles. But there was no agreement... Actually, the supranational elite needed a new war in Europe. And the Hitler regime provided for it not because it rushed towards it, but because, being a national regime, it could not organically live in the "Versailles" "collar" and would have thrown it off sooner or later by force ... Because it did not allow him to make it a world this same elite.

But behind the development of the conspiracy of Beck and his associates The British followed closely.

Best reported "upstairs": ***"We have reliable information that Hitler is opposed by the opposition in the person of many people who held the highest positions in his Wehrmacht and in his departments ... According to our information, this opposition movement has assumed such proportions that they can even lead to uprising and overthrow of the Nazis."*** These are the

"revolutionaries" Daladier and Lipsky counted on. Although, of course, in the first place - not they, but people of a much higher rank ... And these trots, beks and cordts actively frustrated

Berlin's efforts to come to a peaceful solution and additionally contributed to the formation of England's decision to go to war. In any case, they gave the anti-English part of the "English" elite a convenient excuse to

justify toughness - they say, if we start a war, then our friends in Berlin will be able to overthrow Hitler ...

It turned out interesting! Leftists from the Comintern, Trotskyists, enthusiasts of the "Red World Fire" tried to push the Soviet Union to war with Germany, counting on the "proletarian German revolution sweeping away Hitler" ... coup. That is, one could say this... Europe was brought to war by the

supranational part of the elite in London and Paris, Same tried provoking the anti-national part of the Polish elite to impudent behavior (the Poles, however, almost all of the elite were like that)...

Europe was brought to war by this "Polish" elite itself - refusing to return Danzig, which had long been inhabited by Germans, to Germany and to solve the problem of a reliable connection between the main territory

of the Reich and East Prussia. However, as we can see, the oppositional part of the German elite also led Europe to war - provoking London, Paris, Warsaw with assurances that an "anti-

Nazi uprising" was near ... But all these European forces of the war were secondary to the overseas power of the US Golden Elite that fed them, generated

them . And only two serious political forces in Europe and in the world wanted peace, but an honest and just peace that would not infringe on the natural right of peoples to self-

determination. And these forces were Hitler's German Reich and Stalin's Soviet Union in

1939... On AUGUST 23, these two forces signed the Pact, which, according to many, gave impetus to the war, but either fools or scoundrels thought so.

The August 23 pact only created a political basis for the complete elimination of the vile decisions of Versailles regarding Germany and the elimination of the vile greed of Poland, which in 1921 risked separating Western Ukraine and Western Belarus from Russia under the Treaty of Riga.

Regarding Versailles, I must say this... In

1919, the Paris "peace" conference summed up the results of the First World War. And on March 25, 1919, the Prime Minister of England, Lloyd George, sent a memorandum to the participants of the Conference entitled "Some considerations for the information of the participants of the conference before final conditions are worked out." It was later called the "document from Fontainebleau", because it is believed that Lloyd George wrote it in Fontainebleau ...

Or maybe he really wrote it there - the document was small ...

Here's what was there: ***"If in the end Germany feels that she was unfairly treated when concluding the peace treaty of 1919, she will find means to obtain compensation from her winners ... The maintenance of the peace will... depend on the elimination of***

all the reasons for irritation, which constantly raises the spirit of patriotism; it will depend on justice, on the consciousness that people act honestly in their desire to compensate for losses ... The injustice and arrogance shown in the hour of triumph will never be forgotten or forgiven.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose the transfer of a large number of Germans from Germany to the rule of other states ... I cannot help but see the reason for a future war in the fact that the German people, who have sufficiently shown themselves to be one of the most energetic and small states. The peoples of many of them (Lloyd George could have said more specifically - Czechoslovakia and Poland. - S.K.) ***have never before been able to create stable governments for themselves, and now a mass of Germans will fall into each of these states, demanding reunification with their homeland . The proposal of the Commission on Polish Affairs to transfer 2,100 thousand Germans under the rule of a people of a different religion, a people that throughout its history has not been able to prove that it is capable of stable self-government, in my opinion, should sooner or later lead to a new war in Eastern Europe ".*** Is there any need to comment on this 1919 document after what we, dear reader, now know

about the year 1939? I personally do not intend to do this, but I will add something about something else, although

all about the same...

The course of the Soviet-Polish war in 1920 was such that the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army was rapidly advancing towards Warsaw. And then the British government made a demarche. Minister of Foreign Affairs Curzon sent a note to the government of the RSFSR with a proposal to conclude a truce with Poland and withdraw troops to the ethnically justified "Curzon Line" ... The note indicated that it "approximately ***goes like***

this: Grodno - Yalovka - Nemirov - Brest-Litovsk - Dorogusk - Ustilug, east of Grubeshuv through Krylov, further west of Rava Russkaya, east of Przemyśl to the Carpathians"...

But then a "miracle near Warsaw" happened - the Entente began to urgently save the Poles, and it all ended with the Peace of Riga, under the development of the conditions of which the Poles about the "Curzon Line" resolutely

forgot. Brest-Litovsk and Vladimir-Volynsky, Lutsk, Rovno, Grodno, Pinsk, Molodechno, Baranovichi ended up in Poland ... It was about the same as taking

Danzig and part of the territory under the "corridor" for Poland to the sea from Germany (although they managed the same without this exit, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Switzerland). Well, after the upheavals of 1910-1920, the map of Europe changed. But

fools and scoundrels reshaped it ... There was a time - madmen scattered stones. Now it's time to collect them ... AND COLLECT not only in

Europe ... At the end of that day on August 23, when the German Ribbentrop was in the Russian capital, from Rome to Berlin from the

German ambassador, 56-year-old Hans von Mackensen (son of Field Marshal Mackensen, godson and son-in-law von Neurath, by the way), an urgent telegram was sent, the content of which intertwined the possible fates of the four great powers.

The reason for her sending was another urgent dispatch that arrived in Rome from afar... Shortly thereafter, Mackensen was summoned by Count Ciano.

"I have invited you to read the message from the ambassador to Tokyo, Giacinto Auriti," Ciano explained the urgency. - In my opinion, it is so serious that I ask you to pass it on as soon as possible ... - Listen ... - Last night, our military attache, Lieutenant Colonel Scalise, was

summoned to

the Japanese Ministry of War and stated that the forthcoming conclusion of the Moscow Pact caused deep indignation in Japan Germany ... As Scalise said, this means the friendship of the Japanese-German ideas, the betrayal of the "Anti-Comintern Pact".

And

- Yes, seriously ... Well, what, in your opinion, could be the consequences?

On the opinion of Ciano (more precisely, Aurity), Mackensen reported as follows:
"The ambassador lists the possible consequences: 1.

The fall of the present government and the new Anglophile cabinet. 2. Changing

the course of Japanese foreign policy. 3. Recall of the ambassador in Berlin and, possibly, in Rome.

4. Sending reinforcements to the Kwantung Army in order to balance the Russian reinforcements in the area...” Ciano read all this from the text of the

cipher, Mackensen listened, and after listening, he asked: “Well, what do you intend to do?” - I immediately

instructed the ambassador in Tokyo to tell the Japanese

following...

And Ciano already verbally began to list the points, which in Mackensen's presentation looked like this: “... **1) Italian policy has not**

undergone any changes, friendship and understanding regarding Japan are unchanged; 2) in assessing the situation, the Japanese should remember that any weakening of the positions of England and France in Europe would only be beneficial for Japan; 3) the recall of ambassadors would be unprecedented compromising

step...”

Ciano himself hardly understood what a fruitful idea the second paragraph of his instructions carried ... According to him, it turned out that it was beneficial for Japan to weaken the two European "democracies", the indirect cause of which is the USSR, which in Japan was considered an enemy ... But what was considered - they really fought with him, albeit on the periphery of Japanese interests. And so the actions of the USSR objectively strengthen the position of Japan. There was something to think about! And the

Japanese, and the Germans with the Italians, and

us...

England and France could not supplement Japan - they only used it to their advantage in China. But the USSR could supplement Japan, and with this the USSR now concluded a pact with Germany - another country that could also supplement the USSR, and not use

his...

In other words, the circumstance subtly caught by Ciano could be an illustration of a completely different idea - the idea of the axis "Berlin - Moscow - Tokyo" ...

Italy could play the role of a kind of “lubricant” here ... The impulsive Mussolini was, however, much less wealthy in foreign policy than in domestic, and his anti-communism is a renegade

(nevertheless, he was just him) could quickly develop into anti-Sovietism,
But...

But there was something to think about ... Germany, Italy and Japan were bound by a common "Anti-Comintern Pact". However, Germany and Italy were already bound by friendly pacts with the USSR.

Hitler in the party circle spoke of the pact with the USSR as a deal with Satan against the devil. Stalin, too, viewed the pact with Germany as a respite. The distrust of both sides and both leaders was, alas, justified. And our distrust of the Japanese was even more justified. But even the

three "anti-Comintern" countries did not really trust each other. And they disagreed - among other things - on Japan's attitude towards the USSR.

The distrust was vast... But was it fundamentally irremovable? The war in Mongolia

subsided. The war in Europe flared up ... But it was necessary to look to the future, even if only one thing was known about it so far. That it is

inevitable. HITLER...

On August 31, Hitler signed a document whose title and number spoke for themselves...

DIRECTIVE No. 1 ON THE WAR

1. After the political possibilities to eliminate by peaceful means the intolerable situation for Germany on its eastern border have been exhausted, I decided to resolve this issue by force.

2. The attack on Poland should be carried out according to the plan adopted "Weiss" preparations...

The distribution of tasks and the purpose of the operation remain unchanged. Date of attack: 1.09.1939. Time of attack:

4.45. 3. In the West, the task is to clearly shift the responsibility for the outbreak of hostilities to England and France ... The guarantees of their neutrality given by us to Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and Switzerland are carefully observed.

Do not cross the German land border in any point without my express permission.

It was 4 hours and 45 minutes on September 1, and the Wehrmacht, Luftwaffe and The Kriegsmarine began to implement the Weiss plan ...

September 2 - after unsuccessful attempts to act as mediator - Italy declared itself "not waging war."

On September 3, France and Great Britain declared war on Germany.

On the 3rd of September (in Europe it was already the 4th), the President of the United States

Roosevelt publicly stated: "Our country will remain neutral, but I cannot ask every American to remain neutral in thought as well"...

Roosevelt's characteristic "respectable" buffoonery was manifested in the fact that he deliberately played with words here ... The subtext of his thesis was contrasted with the statement of President Woodrow Wilson, who also announced the neutrality of the United States on August 4, 1914 immediately after the war prepared for them, immediately declare: "We have nothing to do with it!"). Then Wilson declared: "I ask the citizens of the United States to observe full loyalty to all belligerent states, both in deed and in word, both in action and in thought." Yes, a criminal can be recognized not only by his craving for the crime scene,

but also by a particularly sentimental, "sensitive" vocabulary. This is how the United States was marked. Italy... The reader, I hope, remembers that in a

conversation with our

Chargé

d'Affaires ad interim Gelfand on May 18, Ciano stated: as soon as the Polish-German conflict arises, Italy will immediately and mechanically take the side of Germany... In fact, it turned out not just differently, but very even otherwise...

So, even with the outbreak of the war, Italy, without taking the side of Germany, continued to supply France with aviation equipment and ... cars (for nothing that she asked them from the Germans).

But more than that - in the Alps on the Italo-German border, the construction of powerful fortifications was forced (and the materials were found). Little known to us, Mario Roatta, who became deputy chief of the General Staff by 1939, said: "The creation of this line ... showed that there was no military alliance between Italy and Germany." But in general, this was, of course, not entirely true.

WAR in Europe began for all major European powers except Italy. However, for other countries - except for Germany and Poland, it has not yet begun, as it were ... Anglo-French Europe has not yet fought - it still

so far, as Leopold Emery aptly said, ***she has been playing war.***

And she was immediately dubbed "strange" ...

Chapter

8

THE CONCEPT “strange war” (drole de guerre) was put into circulation by American journalists, but perhaps not by them ... The exact author of this exact expression, alas, is unknown, although the American Senator Bora is credited with the authorship of the expression “Phoney war” - “imaginary war” (also “false”, “fake”, “false”, “suspicious”, all translation options reflect the essence correctly) ... The French called it “strange” (drole de guerre). And such a name, as they say,

itself asked for the language, and why - we will see ... However, no less strange than the very beginning of the war in the West,

there was also the preparation of two "democratic" states for war ...

And the main oddity was that there was no such preparation! More precisely, she,

of course, seemed to be, but - precisely

strange ...

They say that generals are always preparing for the last war. This is hardly the case, but the French and British generals before the new European war really thought in terms of the First World War, which was a positional war. The highest manifestation of this way of thinking was the French

"Maginot Line". We'll get to know her later...

But **that** war had another important feature, which in England, for example, could not be forgotten. **That** war was the first war of truly massive armies. In front of her, even the Napoleonic wars looked half-toy. And in **that** war, island England had to create a million-strong “Kitchener army” ... And if so, then England, it would seem, should have drawn conclusions and, as the situation worsened, massaging the

army. This would be logical, especially since England herself contributed to the heat of passions ...

An invasion directly into the island of England in 1939 was still a difficult matter, but still more likely than in 1914. Yes, and on the continent, if you remember again **that** war, England would have to send at least hundreds of thousands of soldiers.

So the regular army by the end of the thirties should have been at least no less than by 1914. However, in 1937 it was 40 thousand **less than** the original **one** and consisted of only 146 thousand people. The reserve, together with the additional reserve, was 136,000, compared with 210,000

in 1914. The Territorial Army had 151,000 men, compared with 210,000 in 1914.

As for training, I will simply give an assessment of Leopold Emery: ***“Modern warfare makes ever higher demands on the physical development and technical training of army personnel ... But neither the salary nor the conditions of service ... were designed to train people of the right type ... At that time while in the navy each sailor was given the opportunity to choose his specialty, in the army ... they tried to train soldiers at no extra cost ... Therefore, physically developed and mentally healthy young people did not want to serve in the land army, and the latter was replenished with an annual recruitment of 20 thousand physically handicapped young men, who, moreover, but they fed and taught according to a system that did not differ in special merits.*”**

The law on universal military service was adopted in England only a few months before the war. Strange? Perhaps more

than ...

Well, how were things in
France?

Back in 1934, the then secretary of the Supreme Council of National Defense of France, 44-year-old Colonel Charles Andre Joseph Marie de Gaulle, wrote the book “For a professional army” ... The author did not reject the idea of a mass army - at that time it would have been ridiculous, but he called for the creation modern, motorized, balanced and well-prepared radio-equipped, maneuverable saturated

armies,

armored and aviation forces, capable of "acting without delay" ... De Gaulle is very figurative,

but what is most important - exactly for the way of thinking of a citizen of a great power, declared: "... The sword is the axis of the world, and the greatness of the country is inseparable from the greatness of its army."

In France, this book aroused some interest, but was perceived as a purely theoretical work. Out of a circulation of several thousand, 750 copies were sold. But Hitler not only got acquainted with it, but also put many of the Frenchman's ideas at the basis of his own military construction, although he had national theorists on the level - Generals Keitel, Rundstedt, Guderian ... Previously, they were grouped around General von Seeckt, now - around Hitler.

However, these theorists were also excellent practitioners! Fortunately, the Fuhrer not only did not fetter their initiative, but, on the contrary, encouraged it. True, the old generals like Beck did not really like this, but the Fuhrer did not really like the old generals either ... The

hero of the air battles of the First World War, Hermann Goering, created modern aviation, which could both interact with ground forces and solve serious independent tasks.

As for Charles Andre Joseph Marie de Gaulle, he, by his own admission, "it was unbearably hard to watch how ... the future enemy provides himself with the means necessary to achieve victory, while France was still deprived of them." De Gaulle defined the situation as "incredible apathy". What was the matter? What is a sharp Gallic mind and powerful

British ability to look ahead suddenly exhausted itself? I don't think so...

Did England and France lack the necessary material resources?

Well, although the industrial production in Germany in many respects was close or even exceeded the total Anglo-French, but the weak industry of the two countries could not be called.

Yes, Germany smelted as much iron and steel in 1939 as England and France did together. In 1939, Germany produced 200 thousand tons of aluminum, and France - 50 (England - 25 in general) ... But, say, Germany produced 332 thousand cars in 1937 (of which 269 were cars), and England - 493 (cars - 379) , and France - 200 thousand (177 cars). So why were England and

France "in apathy"? And - even more interesting - why, not being ready for war, did both "democratic" powers so flippantly give military guarantees to Poland? And even more interesting - why did they not refuse these

guarantees when such a refusal could provide a peaceful solution to the problem through concessions from Warsaw?

France, for example, undertook, in the event of German aggression against Poland, to immediately bombard military installations in Germany from the air and conduct a series of limited offensive operations, and on the fifteenth day of mobilization - when the Germans would be involved in battles in Poland - to organize a broad offensive with the main forces!

The obligation is more than serious, but why did the unprepared France

give it? And why did unprepared England simply provoke the Poles into war by ratifying on August 25 the military treaty that was concluded in May 1939? The vile

"trick" here was that, despite all the gallic cock-like references by Daladier and Coulongre to honor, national and officer, and despite all the "righteous" indignation of Henderson, neither France nor England were seriously going to fight Germany!

In the annual intelligence report of the Foreign Armies Department of the General Staff of the Ground Forces of July 1, 1939, this was stated quite confidently: "In the **event of a conflict, the Western powers are most likely to give Germany the initiative in making political and military decisions ... military solution through an offensive on land ...** "

Why are there intelligence reports and forecasts! 15 (fifteenth) August 1939 - when it's been four days in Moscow

there were tripartite negotiations, Bonnet received the Polish ambassador in Paris, Lukaszewicz, to discuss with him the Soviet offer to help Poland in the event of a German attack on it ... Bonnet explained to

Lukaszewicz: - Only Russian-

Polish cooperation in the eastern theater of operations will ensure our common effective resistance to aggressive plans powers of the "axis" ... - Marshal Pilsudski bequeathed to us

not to allow the Polish
land foreign troops!

"But by refusing to discuss the strategic conditions for the entry of Russian troops, Poland must accept responsibility for the possible failure of military negotiations in Moscow and for all the consequences that follow from this ...

However, the Pole answered so sharply in the negative that his reaction simply angered both Bonnet and Prime Minister Daladier himself. On August 18, Daladier spoke with US Ambassador Bullitt and out of spite told him everything he thought about the Poles:

— Reject the Russian proposal for an effective military
help - this is the greatest stupidity on the part of the Poles!

- The Poles do not want to allow the Red Army to come to them, -
Bullitt

remarked ... - But as soon as the German army invades Poland, they will be glad to receive any help! - Daladier answered irritably ... Brother Bullitt

could have dissuaded him - he **knew** that the "Pilsudskie" Poles would **never** accept the help of the USSR, but he simply shrugged his shoulders and listened on ... And Daladier, becoming more and more irritated, excitedly declared: -

If the Poles refuse Russian help, I will not send a single French peasant to defend Poland! - Are you serious? -

Absolutely seriously!

Bullitt could – if he were

interested in keeping the peace – ask a logical question: "And when France gave military guarantees to Poland, did she condition these guarantees on the consent of the Poles to Russian assistance? And if Daladier encouraged the Poles without counting on

Russians, why is he now so firmly linking the participation of France in the war for Poland with the participation of the

Russians? Bullitt could have asked (and even had to ask) and this: "Does Daladier consider it timely to withdraw the French guarantees, regardless of the position of the Poles on the question of Russian assistance?" But Bullitt

simply asked again: "Your position is firm?"

- I tell you for the third time:

if the Poles refuse Russian help, I will not send a single French peasant to defend Poland! And so it actually happened! And we will see it. But what about honor?

And what is there such an ephemeral concept for many as

honor! There were also real national interests ... And a serious war did not answer them. Serious military training answered them, the sword as the axis of the world answered them ... But there was no preparation for war. But the war England and

France

started...

Why? Why did they start it, not being ready for it? And why didn't they prepare? From the point of

view of national interests, this was extremely stupid. What about supranational ones?

Here's something! It was a question that carried an answer. If you look at the matter from this side, it becomes clear why England and France did not prepare. After all, if they forced their military training, then, having powerful armies, they could behave harshly with Germany. And Hitler could simply be afraid of the obviously unfavorable consequences for himself of a direct military conflict, especially a war on two fronts. And the mighty world forces needed a new war... Earlier, before

the First World War, the European "alignment" was such

that a pan-European conflict could not be possible without playing off Germany and Russia.

And it was vilely done ... At first, the Russia of Alexander III - already reliably entangled in a web of foreign loans from the time of Alexander I, and especially Alexander II - was tied even more to

With loans to the West, and the Russian-German customs wars organized by Witte, Russia was pushed away from its traditionally friendly Germany. Then the peasants of Nicholas II were led

under the machine-gun fire of the troops of Kaiser Wilhelm II for the glory of the Rothschilds of Paris and London, and ultimately for the glory of Wall Street. Playing off the Third Reich and Soviet Russia for

the West was already ten times more tempting and desirable. But earlier, Russia and Germany were in direct contact - along the

border of the Russian part of Poland. Now it was impossible to repeat this scheme immediately, directly - there was no common border. And so Poland was set up for Hitler ... Long-range calculation was, of course,

on the USSR. Our friend Henderson wrote to London on March 9, 1939:

“Hitler stated quite clearly in Mein Kampf that living space for Germany can only be obtained by expanding to the east. The expansion to the east makes, however, a clash between Germany and Russia on some day largely probable ... It is not impossible to reach an agreement with Hitler ... ” Yes,

there was a long-range calculation on the USSR, but not necessarily. After all, it was not known in advance how successful Hitler's campaign would be. After all, he himself hoped first of all to solve the

problem of Danzig and the "Corridor", and the rest - as luck would have it. But in any case, before the war, he assumed that the result of the war would be some kind of peace treaty with some post-war Poland. And this meant that Poland would still be located between it and the USSR, albeit cut off to its natural ethnic limits from the West by Hitler and from the East by Stalin. Therefore, for the supranational forces and their "national" groups in England and France, first of all, a war in Europe as such was needed, and necessarily with the participation of Germany (in fact, it could not have been otherwise). That is why there were military

guarantees for Poland and why "democracies" were not prepared. The guarantees provoked the Poles (already after the start of the war, Beck

asked the emissary of the Vatican: "Where are the armies of Gamelin?") ...

Guarantees obligated the British and French and automatically brought them into conflict.

And the unpreparedness of the "allies" could explain the need for intervention in European affairs by the third "great democracy" - overseas. So, unprepared England had to drag Poland into

a war with Germany and formally declare war on Germany. Then it was possible to sit out on the island and build up armaments, gradually including the United States in European affairs.

As for an unprepared France... Of course, there was a risk of the fall of an unprepared France. So what?! It was donated in advance... What is there for the elite "French" "two hundred families" to the chestnuts of Paris? The whole world dragged chestnuts out of the fire for them, and the whole world was

their home ... These "families", like any gangster ones, are sentimental families were no different.

IN THE WEST On September 3, the *drole de guerre* began. In Germany, it also received a figurative name - Sitzkrieg ("sitting war"). But in England, for those who wanted war, the most active time came. September 3 - Chamberlain was just discussing the text of the declaration about its announcement - Churchill "agreed" to become the first Lord of the Admiralty, that is, Minister of the Navy. And on September 11, US President Franklin Delano

Roosevelt, FDR, sent him a "personal" letter: **"My**

dear Churchill, due to the fact that you and I held similar posts during the World War (First Lord of the Admiralty Churchill and Assistant Secretary of the US Navy Roosevelt. - S. K.), **I want, so that you know how glad I am that you are back in the Admiralty ... I would like both you and the Prime Minister to know that I will always be glad if you contact me personally on any questions that, on In your opinion, I should be in the know. You can always send me sealed letters with your mail or mine.**

I'm glad you finished the Marlborough (sic) volumes before it all started and I enjoyed reading them." By all the rules

- divine, human and diplomatic - it was, perhaps, a faux pas: chapter

a foreign, and even a neutral power, with a living prime minister, sent a message not to the prime minister, but to one of his ministers. "Fig leaves" in the form of "personal" phrases about "similar posts" and "about Marlboro", that is, about the book of Churchill and his assistants "Marlboro - his life and time", hid little ... The last, fourth volume of research on his famous ancestor, Sir Winston published back in 1938, and FDR, if he admired him so much, could have informed the author about this earlier ...

I'll tell you right away that before February 1940, Churchill sent 5 (five) unanswered formal progress reports to the USA ... Roosevelt - as part of the still "intimate private correspondence" - answered Churchill only on February 1, 1940. Of course,

Roosevelt knew what Churchill wrote about as well as Churchill. It was just a "running in" of the technology of contacts, which were to become openly official and regular in the future... If before the First World War the

brother-mathematician of the French President Poincaré himself said that Poincaré was war, then a quarter of a century later Churchill could be synonymous with war... In 1939, Chamberlain wrote in his diary: **"Churchill's chances of being included in the government improve as war becomes more likely, and vice versa."** Churchill, Lloyd George and the former French Prime

Minister, Litvinov's friend Edouard Herriot demanded in 1939 the immediate signing of an Anglo-French-Soviet treaty of mutual assistance.

Churchill, on May 4, 1939, declared: "There is no way to hold the Eastern Front against Nazi aggression without the active assistance of Russia ... It may still be possible to rally all states and peoples from the Baltic to the Black Sea into a single strong front against a new crime or invasion ... "So, cheers for Russia's friend Churchill? But Soviet Russia in the outside

world had few such irrevocable and

talented enemies as Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill felt himself all his life. His whole nature, his whole being was saturated with the worldview of the elite, the oligarchy, the unquestioned rights of the possessing minority to a life worthy of a crown.

creation, but the right to such a life precisely and only for those who have minorities.

The idea of true democracy (understood in its literal translation from the Greek "demos", the people + "kratos", power) was not just alien to him. She didn't even hate him. An aristocrat and a direct descendant of aristocrats, during the game that never took place, the 9th Duke of Marlborough, he was formed from an early age in an atmosphere of elitism and selectivity. And with milk - there is, of course, not a blooming beauty of a mother who adorned ball gowns with two diamond pentagrams, but with the milk of a blooming beauty nurse, baby Winston absorbed the psychology of the indisputable master of life. Yes, in his youth he could endanger his life in Cuba, in Omdurman and in South Africa ... Yes, although he was arrogant, he was charming, although he was a sybarite, but with the ability to work ... That is, he was not a chemically pure type of social parasite. However, he simply could not imagine himself existing in such an order of society, when there are no masters and servants, no elite and masses, but only a free association of free people ...

Everyone, not just a few... But
maybe Churchill was also ready for an alliance with Satan (that is, in his terms, with Stalin) in order to expel the devil-Hitler? No, he called for an alliance with Soviet Russia not even because of political realism, but with one strategic goal - to prevent the rapprochement of Russia and Germany, and even more so their lasting union. Taking into account the fact that Russia left the power of the supranational Golden Elite, and Germany was leaving, such an alliance put an end to the entire Anglo-Saxon, or rather Mamono Masonic, elitist concept of the world in the future. As early as May 19, 1939, the question of

negotiations with the USSR to conclude a military alliance ...

At first, Lloyd George colorfully and gloomily described the pictures of future aggression and - what to do - admitted that Germany would certainly have succeeded in the blitzkrieg in 1914, "if not for Russia" ... Churchill also spoke about the same: - If the Eastern Front is not created, what will happen to the
West? Without an effective Eastern Front it is impossible

satisfactorily protect our interests in the West, and without Russia an effective Eastern Front is impossible ...

Sir Winston was, of course, right, but it remained to be understood whether Russia needed an effective Eastern Front? And does it need any other front other than the labor one? Churchill and his Golden Clan needed a new war - for new military superprofits, for the further rise of the United States, for a new play off of Germany and Russia ... But the Soviet

Union needed peace. He was already living in the regime of the 4th five-year plan ...

Yes, and Hitler needed not a war, but Danzig and the final solution to the "Polish" problem...

If Churchill had been merely a political realist, thinking nationally, he - at least after August 23 - should have come out against military guarantees to Poland. After all, he himself stated that the guarantee to Poland "had no military value except in the framework of an agreement with Russia." An agreement with Russia did not work out, and now the guarantees served the cause not of maintaining peace, but of unleashing a war. However,

Churchill - who never climbed into his pocket for a word and was known as a brilliant speaker - did not call for the abolition of guarantees. On the contrary, already after the outbreak of the war, he admitted: "All the last weeks I feared most of all that, despite our guarantee, His Majesty's government would refuse to fight Germany if the latter attacked Poland."

Why was he afraid of this?

Yes, it's understandable

- **why**] CHURCHILL did not talk about an "effective Eastern Front" with an empty head ... "Honorary" Poland could not provide it in any way, although it intended to enter Berlin ...

Germany was the second industrial power in the world with outstanding cultural, intellectual and labor traditions, and Poland ... And Poland was a backward

agrarian country with a weak economy and a completely rotten state system (if what Poland had could be called a state).

Only 57 factories worked for defense, producing small arms, gunpowder, ammunition and artillery. There was an aviation and tank-building industry, but weak in all

relationships.

The modernization of the army was not carried out - the magnates did not have money for defense, and the loans of the "patrons" were similar to military guarantees - they seem to be, but here they are not. France promised a loan and supplies for two and a quarter billion francs, but fulfilled the promise by 13 (should it be with a hint, or what?) Percent ... A battalion of tanks was built for this "help". England promised a loan of 8 million pounds, but did not give a penny. Enough, however, gentry

sabers, cavalry mustaches, spurs and ambition. The Poles believed in the cavalry much more than Semyon Budyonny, who was considered a horseman (in fact, he simply protested against the stupid attitude towards views on tanks). An understanding person could

easily imagine the nature of the future German-Polish conflict when comparing just a few figures relating to the armaments of the parties ...

They were like this:

tanks

Germany: 3200

Poland: 600

Aircraft

bombers Germany:

1176 ***Poland:***

146 ***fighters***

Germany: 771

Poland: 315

scouts

Germany: 356

Poland: 325

military transport and others

Germany: 981

Poland: 56

The qualitative comparison of armored and aviation equipment turned out to be even more depressing for the Poles. The number of troops was comparable, but the quality of the Germans was also higher (although an ordinary Polish lancer or infantryman could sometimes fight very staunchly).

Just before the start of the Polish campaign, the Wehrmacht did not feel the best way, and the mood in the units was not the most combative. After all, it was a debut for the majority - if we mean the rank and file and the junior officer corps. But under the bullets and shells are primarily they - twenty - and thirty years old ...

The third officer of the headquarters of the III Corps, Franz von Mellenthin, on the contrary, was eager to join the ranks and was seconded to the 5th tank regiment, where he was supposed to appear on October 1, 1939 ...

The growing "Polish" crisis changed plans, but soon Mellentin had to work at the front and at the headquarters of the corps. In the last days of August, parts of the corps marched through the streets of Berlin to the Polish border ... The Berliners, looking at the marching,

and not the front columns, were silent and serious. Mellenthin involuntarily remembered the cheering crowds he had seen as a ten-year-old boy in 1914. Now neither the population nor the soldiers showed any enthusiasm.

And so it began...

The XIX Army Corps of General Heinz Guderian, as part of the 4th Army of Colonel General von Kluge, advanced from Pomerania into the Corridor zone, cutting it. An intermediate goal is the old German city of Kulm, native to Guderian, renamed Chelmno by the Poles. The lands of Pomerania are also the lands of the Polish Pomerania.

So here everything is superimposed on one another ... And now the German Pomeranian infantry opposed the Polish Pomeranian cavalry. However, the Poles dealt more with tanks, attacking them with cold

weapons. Saber against armor? Well, boldly and even selflessly, that's just - absolutely to no avail ...

September 4 "Corridor" was broken through.

And on the 5th, Hitler arrived in Guderian's corps ...

For the corps commander, these were not just native places, but also the homeland of their ancestors. The Gross-Klonya estate was owned by the general's great-grandfather, Baron Hiller von Gertringen. In addition to the grave of his great-grandfather, there was also the grave of his grandfather - Guderian, and the father of the future tank commander was born in Gross-Klon. His mother was also born in the Kulm district.

Versailles took away Guderian's homeland, and now he was taking it back from the Poles. And so he was driving in the Fuhrer's car in the direction of Kulm - Chelmno ...

They passed through the places of yesterday's battles - the front had moved forward, and Hitler asked about

the losses. "As far as I was informed," Guderian replied, "150 killed and 700 wounded in four divisions subordinate to me.

- So few? the Fuhrer was surprised. "The Liszt regiment, in which I served in that war, lost two thousand killed and wounded after the first day of hostilities! - Well, our insignificant losses in battles against

a brave and stubborn enemy should be explained by the effectiveness of tanks ... Now, after our successes, faith in them has greatly increased! Characteristic towers appeared on the horizon... - What is this - Kulm? Hitler asked. - Yes sir!

Last March I had the honor of welcoming you to your homeland, and today I can welcome you to mine. I was born in Kulm... Guderian reminded the Fuhrer of the time of the Anschluss, when he met his car, littered with Austrian flowers in Linz... Both were silent... And then the conversation

turned to the problems of improving the design of the T-III and T-IV medium tanks...

The car drove into the city ... The population was already getting out of the shelters, and Hitler also received flowers here ... Mostly Germans also lived in Kulm ...

And the front went further and further - to Plock, to Warsaw ... Already on September 6, an entry appeared in Halder's diary: **"16.00. Warsaw taken"...**

However, in fact, the advanced units of the 4th Panzer Division reached the nearest approaches to the Polish capital on September 8 ... And those Poles who did not have estates and who, already at birth, could count in the future on eternal possession of only a couple of square meters of their native land, defended Warsaw until September 28 ... They defended steadfastly, under powerful artillery fire and air bombing, repeatedly rejecting the proposals of the Germans

surrender...

Well, not everyone in Poland aspired to be like Colonel Beck... There were, as we can see, quite a few of those who wanted to remain human under any circumstances...

It's only a pity that such people were in the minority... Otherwise, the Poland of the Beks and Mościcki itself would not have become possible, and such a Poland—self-respecting—could be sympathetic to the feelings of another people and adequately cede to it what did not belong to it... And General Guderian would not have had to recapture his hometown with weapons in his hands ... He, too, fought for his native land, and on September 10, General Halder noted in his diary: "Guderian is at the **very forefront with a pistol in his hand!**" The morale of the German soldiers grew. For the Polish, it was fading away ... The Polish leadership did not have it initially ... Yes, Warsaw capitulated

only on the 28th. But already on September 6, the Polish government secretly left the capital and moved to Lublin ... From there, it soon fled

to Romania ... And, to be honest, I have neither the desire nor the need to trace his further wanderings. However, something else needs to be said ... Immediately after France declared war on Germany, the French commander-in-chief, General Maurice Gamelin, sent a telegram to his Polish colleague Edward Rydz-Smigly with assurances of

friendship and promised to start hostilities on land on September 4th.

And he did not

start ... In London, Halifax told Edward Rachinsky that he "shared his grief, but His Majesty's government cannot disperse the forces necessary for decisive action." But they promised to fight for Poland ...

The Chief of the British General Staff, Edmund Ironside, in response to the request of the Polish military mission for help, advised to purchase weapons in neutral countries ... No more and no less ... And at this time ... And at this time (to be exact - September 2) the

Soviet plenipotentiary

in Warsaw Sharonov is still came to Beck and asked him if he was familiar with the interview with Marshal Voroshilov. The bottom line was that immediately after the conclusion of the Soviet-German pact, on August 27, Voroshilov, in an interview with Izvestia, said that the USSR was ready to provide assistance to Poland with raw materials and military materials, since this "is a commercial matter." Beck was, of course, familiar with the interview, but he portrayed a lack of understanding of what the Russian plenipotentiary was hinting at. Sharonov asked directly: "Do you remember that they

offered you help in raw materials and

military supplies? — Yes... — So

why

doesn't Poland turn to us for help? And Beck, dear reader, answered after a pause: - We will consider this issue ... Just something - "consider" !!! A day later,

Sharonov's Estonian colleague Markus asked

him:

- You are not going to act on the side of Germany? "You heard Molotov's speech, didn't you?" Everything is clearly stated there - there is no question of this ... By the way, we just sold Poland yesterday cotton...

Cotton during the war is gunpowder... But Markus insisted: - Won't you help Poland?

"We wanted to help, but Poland refused, and we

didn't have to ask ourselves ... And only a week later, the Polish ambassador to Moscow, Grzybowski, came to

Molotov and said that the purpose of *his* arrival was to "make contact" on the issue of possible Soviet supplies. Just something to contact!

However, even Russian patience ended here ... Poland was falling apart before our eyes, and it was time to think not about helping her, but about returning our lands greedily torn away by Poland - Western Ukraine and Western Belarus ...

EVERYTHING, OF COURSE, then looked like an apartment during either a move or a big cleaning - the situation changed, and plans and intentions changed with it, and the changes in the situation were so quick and unexpected that intentions quickly

changed ... Still on September 7, Halder wrote in his diary: ***"The Poles offer to start negotiations. We are ready for them on the following terms: Poland's break with England and France; the remainder of Poland will be kept; areas from Narew with Warsaw to Poland; industrial area - to us; Krakow - Poland; the northern outskirts of the Beskids - to us; regions of Western Ukraine are independent..."***

Halder, of course, did not know about the Moscow agreements, and therefore he only noted the fact that the Germans did not lay claim to Western Ukraine, and Polish jurisdiction over it also ceased. But

on the same day, September 10, he noted: ***"The Russians will act."*** True, Russia still hesitated - which, in fact, was already understandable badly ... After all, if we delayed, we could lose more than a lot - the Germans had not only huge, but complete influence on Ukrainian nationalists of the entire spectrum from Bandera to Bulba and Melnik, and therefore, plans to create an "independent" "Ukrainian People's Republic" with its capital in Lvov-Lemberg were quite realistic. Berlin issued an appeal to the "people of Western Ukraine", and on September 10 it lay on the table of Halder.

Russia had to decide, especially since the troops were already put on alert...

But as early as September 12, Guderian, after a conversation between Commander-in-Chief Brauchitsch and Hitler, wrote: ***"The Russians obviously do not want to act. They want to take Ukraine for themselves in order to keep the French from interfering. The Russians believe that the Poles will agree to conclude a truce."***

Stalin, however, was still afraid not so much of criticism from the "right" - from Europe, as from the "left" - from the Comintern, from his own very "ideological" "comrades-in-arms" ... But time and the situation did not work

only on the success of German weapons, but also on Soviet sound

meaning...

As early as September 7, the Germans - despite the quick and stunningly successful battles for them - did not reject the idea of negotiating with the Poles. But the Polish "collapse" was already like an avalanche, and this "avalanche" buried the prospects for at least some kind of peace agreement. In a matter of days, those with whom it was possible to negotiate simply disappeared from the political arena. The Polish leaders finally turned into living corpses. For Germany, in the Polish theater of operations, from September 10, the Wehrmacht began to pursue pursuit through the San and Vistula ... On September

11, the transition of regular Polish soldiers to the territory of Romania began. On September 15, Guderian's troops encircled the fortress of Brest on the banks of the Bug, and on the morning of September 17, the giant citadel was taken. The headquarters of Guderian's corps was located in Brest ...

And units of the Red Army were already approaching Brest from the east. Approached the army, in fact - a friendly German. And friendly not because of "totalitarian" kinship - as angry cartoons portrayed in the "democratic" press, but because of the geopolitical and historical logic that was mentioned in the German note to the Soviet side of August 15, 1939.

The Polish campaign of the Wehrmacht could be described in more detail, but this is not the intention of the author. I will only say one thing: the country that loudly threatened to enter Berlin on white horses, in less than a month, simply ceased to exist! Was it ever an independent "Polska"? Throughout almost its entire political history, both before

and after the "unification" with Lithuania, Poland carried the factors of self-destruction. And if an external impulse was added to their potential impact - Swedish, Cossack, Prussian-Austrian, it immediately found itself in a state of discord, split, collapse, disintegration and partition ... The Wehrmacht acted generally not bad (although far from being as brilliant as the Kaiser's troops in 1914), the superiority in armament was obvious, but the contrast between

leaders and commanders of Germany and a pack of civilian politicians and military fanfarons in the Polish elite ...

IN THE WEST—if we have in mind the Anglo-French "tops"—the picture, though far from being the same as in Poland, was also not impressive... As for the Western Front

itself, the purely military situation there was completely different... First, since 1934 there has been a defensive line

named after the French Minister of War Henri Maginot, who died in 1932. The length is 380 kilometers along the border with Germany from Luxembourg to Switzerland. Three

fortified regions: Lorraine (Metsky), Alsatian (Lautersky) and Belfort Rhine fortified front ... Canals ...

Between the Lorraine and Alsatian URs - a zone

flooding.

Strong natural obstacles, in the Vosges mountains - a strip of fortifications. The depth of the two-lane defense in the Saar sector is from 4 to 14 kilometers in the foreground and 6-8 kilometers in the main

strip.

Strongholds-ensembles with underground structures and galleries at a depth of up to 30 meters.

5600 reinforced concrete long-term firing structures with crossfire - including 520 artillery and 3200 machine guns ... Anti-personnel and anti-tank barriers ...

Modernized fortresses of Belfort, Epinal, Toul, Verdun... Underground multi-level forts with living quarters, ventilation systems, telephone exchanges, canteens and kitchens, hospitals and even narrow-gauge electric railways...

The total number of garrisons is 300 thousand people ... The total cost of the line is a billion dollars. The then ... But this is only the "Maginot Line", that is, an impenetrable part of the Western theater of operations. By the way, the units on the "Maginot Line" had a special small beret in dark khaki color with the motto of the fortress troops since the time of Verdun in 1916: "On ne passe pas" ("He will pass"). The Germans really did not pass here,

since Hitler was not a fool to break through such fortifications in the forehead - at one time he simply went around them from

the side and took them from the rear. The general balance of forces on the Western Front can also be characterized by a few figures - for example, from the diary of General Halder, who wrote on August 21:

“Artillery: France will have about 1600 guns on the northern wing, not counting divisional artillery (and when it falls asleep - only 6000 - 7000, - S.K.); Germany - 300 guns. The French divisional artillery is stronger than the German divisional

artillery. Tanks: France has 50-60 tank battalions (about 2500 tanks); Germany - 0. Zero tanks in

Germany in September 1939 on the Western Front - this is not a typo, but a fact. As for the aircraft, the Germans had up to eight hundred units in total, and the French had up to one and a half thousand. But the German aircraft were of little combat readiness - General Siegfried von Westphal admitted that there were "only a few reconnaissance aircraft and obsolete fighters."

The ratio of divisions on the Franco-German border was 85 to 31 in favor of France.

But all this mass of troops remained in place.

And the Germans weren't able to attack it now - they had enough things to do in Poland ...

The British, on the 5th of September, sent 29 bombers to the Kiel Bay, damaging the "pocket" battleship "Admiral Scheer" and the light cruiser "Emden" and losing on this In fact, 7 aircraft, launched "raids of truth" ... Starting on the night of September 3, British aviation dropped 13 tons on Germany until September 27 ... paper in the form of 18 million leaflets with a "Letter to the German people" ...

This action was also called the "confetti war", and Air Marshal Harris admitted: "I

personally think that the only thing we have achieved is that we have provided the needs of the European continent for toilet paper."

for a few years...

GERMANY and Poland fought in earnest... Although events unfolded in such a way that the use of the word "seriously" to assess the picture of hostilities became less and less serious. Italy hid in the Alpine passes...

The French played cards and drank beer in the underground lounges on the Maginot Line ... The British

sat out across the English Channel, scattering over Germany instead of leaflet bombs...

America was not going to fight, or hide, or climb underground, or agitate anyone - she had prepared the events and was now taking a strategic pause.

The Soviet Union, carefully surveying the surrounding world, was concentrated. Behind its western border, the fighting was going on, behind its eastern border, the fighting had just ended ... And the dusty troops of commander Zhukov had not yet had time to wash off the sweat and dust of Khalkhin-Gol-Nomon-Khon incident.

However, the steppe Mongolian dust was not washed away even by water. Khalkhin Gol - especially since they were poisoned by the Japanese.

It was not so easy to wash off the dust that was thrown into the eyes European simpletons in Europe on the eve of the war...

And to see this, let's go back to peacetime - to the last week before the war...

On August 23, 1939, all five telephones rang at once in the Paris branch of TASS. Alas, the manager, forty-year-old Nikolai Palgunov, had only two arms and two ears. Hands fell off, ears swelled...

And the calls came and went - from the stars of Parisian journalism and from provincial semi-amateurs from micronewspapers, came from ministries and embassies, from telegraph agencies and private apartments. Editors and duty officials, attachés and

ambassadors, envoys and just curious citizens called. But the conversations were similar to each other, like two ripe Parisian chestnuts ...

- Is this a TASS point? - Yes it's true? - What?
"What

about what the Fournier telegraph agency reported?" We do not use Fournier's information. "But it says that Ribbentrop flew to Moscow for important negotiations. This is true? - Don't know.

"So you refute Fournier's report?"

- No! -

It turns out - confirm? - Also no.

"So you

don't know anything?" - Exactly!

- And

there are no comments?

"Sorry, what comments can there be on something you don't know anything

about ?! And at this Palgunov lowered the receiver on the lever only to immediately remove it

again. On August 24, accurate information arrived in Paris, and now there were enough comments without Palgunov's ... And at a press conference on the Quai d'Orsay, the director of the press department of the French Foreign Ministry, Marquis Fouque du Parc, was

tongue-tied and caustic at the same time. And

Palgunov could not refrain from commenting:

- In a word, Quod licet Jovi, non licet bovi? The neighbors did not understand

and after the press conference they

approached the Russian: - Colleague! What did you mean? Are you interested in translating from Latin? Please -

what is allowed to Jupiter is not allowed to the bull ... -

This is understandable. It's not clear what you mean? - Just what, in the opinion of the West, what is allowed to it, the Soviet

Union cannot afford! - That is? - Lord! Chamberlain and Hitler signed a joint declaration pledging never to fight each other again on September 30 last year - right after Munich... Isn't that right? Palgunov asked mockingly.

- Well, yes ... - And Daladier

signed a

similar declaration here in

Paris, together with Ribbentrop on December 6 last year. Right? - We do not argue.

- Well, it turns out that England and France can sign a non-aggression agreement with Germany, but the USSR did not? — But we gave guarantees to Poland! - Lord! It's your problems...

And in the ministerial corridor, Palgunov stumbled upon Tadeusz Swiecicki, who bore the magnificent title of "Director of the Paris Service of the Polish Telegraph Agency." The exquisitely dressed Pole was middle-aged, well-read and claimed to be weighty...

Today he was especially solemn and majestic. "Your country is behaving disloyally," he said. - We will have to leave three or four divisions on the border with you ... But little has changed - Hitler is already beginning to understand that we will not yield. The Polish army is strong, the British and French guarantees do not allow evasive interpretations... Hitler must take all this into account! "Proshe sir, what do you see as disloyalty?" Three months ago, on May

11, Warsaw rejected our offer to sign a mutual assistance pact!

"We will never let your troops into our territory. In general, this is how it happened. The Red Army entered Poland herself without asking. So after all, she came to the lands not of strangers, but **of ours!**

How long we hesitated in September 39th! Only on Sunday, September 17, Halder finally made an entry that should have appeared in his official diary a week, or even two earlier:

"2.00. The message is that the Russians have moved their armies across the border of Poland.

7.00. An order to our troops to stop on the Skole-Lvov - Vladimir-Volynsky - Brest - Bialystok line. in the first half of the day - an exchange of views with the Design Bureau regarding future demarcation line..."

Of course, by coming out later, we ensured our interests in general almost bloodlessly. But on the other hand, taking into account the future possible development of relations with Germany, and - less convincingly ...

Of course, the very fact of the pact fettered the Poles and encouraged the Germans. The German generals and officers, soldiers and the whole people in general were very afraid of the outbreak of war, and before it began they had hopes precisely for the help of Russia - at least in the form of lasting neutrality.

Alas, in the first period of the German-Polish war, we really were nothing more than neutral.

Officially, the beginning of the war with Poland in the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs became known on September 1 at 13.00 from the adviser to the German embassy, Hilger. But

the first time Hilger appeared in the mansion on Spiridonovka at 11.00.

He spoke with Molotov's interpreter and assistant Pavlov.

However, Hilger did not need a translator:

- I ask you to tell Mr. Molotov that in view of the rejection by Poland of our proposals for a peaceful settlement, the Fuhrer gave an order to the troops. - Understood ... - I also ask you to convey that Reich Minister

Ribbentrop is

extremely pleased with Herr Molotov's speech yesterday at the session of the Supreme Council, warmly welcomes it and is very pleased with its utmost clarity ... - I will convey ... - When does your military apache fly to Berlin? - Second ... - And one more thing, Mr. Pavlov ... Chief of the General Staff of

the Luftwaffe

Hans Jeschonnek asks that the radio station in Minsk transmit a continuous line

interspersed with the call signs "Richard Wilhelm 1.0" in his spare time. And yet - as often as possible during the programs - the word "Minsk" ... - And the purpose of this? Pavlov asked. - This is necessary for ... - here Hilger hesitated, because officially for the USSR the war between Germany and Poland did not begin, - for urgent aeronautical experiments ...

- I will pass it on ...

I note, by the way, that the forty-year-old Jeshonnek, like Guderian, fought in 1939 for his native land, because he was a native of Hohensaltz, which, after being torn away from Germany, the Poles called Inowroclaw. But that's the way it is, by the way. As for the request of the Luftwaffe, Molotov agreed to transmit only the word "Minsk" ... For night time, this was a help for the German pilots - an extra reliable radio beacon was, of course, important.

But to go from Minsk in the direction of Warsaw, the Red Army is not in a hurry...

Although I repeat, going to Poland and thereby reinforcing the success of the Germans, we follow *your*...

The author has already reminded the reader that, since 1921, Poland has included lands to which it honorably had no right - Western

Ukraine and Western Belarus. These are not Polish regions, they lie on the eastern side of the "Curzon Line", which was not established by Stalin. At the same time, Curzon

was not an agent of the Kremlin. On the contrary, Lord George Nathaniel Curzon, who died in 1925, was among the most open enemies of Soviet Russia. The first Soviet matchboxes depicted an airplane with an impressive fist instead of a propeller and the inscription "Ultimatum!" This is precisely the "answer" to Curzon to his ultimatum to the USSR in 1923. The reader already knows something

about the "Curzon Line", and now I'll add something else ... The Supreme Council of the Entente decided on the temporary eastern border of Poland along the **ethnographic** Polish borders already on December 8, 1919. It was a completely fair decision in favor of Russia, but not Soviet Russia, but anti-Soviet Russia. The Entente became so generous because Denikin and Wrangel were then standing in Ukraine. Accordingly, the hopes for the death of the RSFSR were still great, and it was necessary to smooth out the contradictions between the two main shock anti-Bolshevik forces: the White Poles and the Russian White Guards. But Denikin was "knocked down"

by the white generals themselves, and his successor Wrangel was doomed, although he also hid behind the bastions of Perekop in the Crimea. "Absolutely unmotivated attack of Poland on the Soviet Union" - I here used the assessment of Herbert von Dirksen, who in 1920 was an adviser to the German embassy in Warsaw - first led to the fact that Pilsudski took Kiev, and then the Red Army was 12 miles from Warsaw. There was then a lot of controversy about the authorship of the "miracle on the Vistula" - either Pilsudski himself saved the situation, or the French general Weigan (which is more like the truth), but the main "merit" should be given to Mikhail Tukhachevsky, mediocre and thoughtless - in a purely Trotskyist manner - driving the troops forward, not caring about communications and so on ...

The result is a "red wave" - I again use the expression Dirksen - turned back ...

However, as said, there was a moment when the Red Army, in the course of the Soviet-Polish war was approaching Warsaw.

The pans panicked.

And the then Polish Prime Minister Grabsky, at an allied conference in Belgian Spa, said on July 10, 1920, that Poland was ready to recognize the border with Russia through the Supreme Council of the Entente. On July 12,

Curzon sent us a note demanding that the advance of the Red Army be stopped along the line, which from that day was named after the British Foreign Minister. Alas, our successes turned out to be temporary, and according to the Riga Peace Treaty, the Poles did chop off Western Belarus and Western Ukraine from us.

The Entente stood behind Poland, and the Polish lords were always ready to profit "for free". They, of course, expected that this "piece" would be chewed. But they forgot that it is easy to choke **on an unchewed** piece ...

It was the seventeenth day of September 1939, when Molotov, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, spoke on the radio and announced the liberation campaign of our troops against Western Ukraine and Western Belorussia.

Molotov said: "The events caused by the Polish-German (**not world!** - S.K.) war showed the internal inconsistency and obvious incapacity of the Polish state. The Polish ruling circles have gone bankrupt." The Chairman of the

Council of People's Commissars and the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs was more than right here. Moreover, it can be added that the bankruptcy of Pan Poland was not that she could not resist the pressure of Guderian's tanks. It was her

misfortune, not her fault. The fault was that she did not want to preserve peace and independence for herself in either of two possible ways: either by an appropriate concession to

Germany, or by a military alliance with us. In their advance through Western Ukraine and Western Belarus, our troops more often had problems with the material part - the equipment sometimes malfunctioned than with the enemy. Although the battle for Grodno cost us 57 people killed and 19 t

Yes, sometimes I had to fight... Sometimes with Polish units, and sometimes with Polish punitive detachments trying to suppress the protests of Ukrainians and Belarusians rushing to their liberators.

On September 20, a motorized group of brigade commander Rozanov near the town of Skidel discovered a Polish detachment engaged in executions of civilians. The BT groups managed to slip across the bridge set on fire by the punishers, and the amphibious tanks crossed the Skidel River on their own. The stubborn one and a half hour battle ended in the evening, and hardly anyone was taken prisoner - among the 17 killed Belarusians there were two boys, and I don't think that the fighters spared even those killers who raised their hands ... It

happened that the troops already encountered only corpses - as it came out with the soldiers of the German tanker Mellenthin. Entering - and also after a stubborn battle - in Bromberg (Bydgoszcz), they saw on the streets hundreds of corpses of Germans - residents of the city, whom the Poles had killed before retreating

But the Polish resistance quickly came to naught ... And there were unwanted "fire contacts" of Soviet and German soldiers. The skirmish near Lvov turned out to be especially tense ... "

In Berlin, our military attache Belyakov was in touch with the head of the National Defense Department in the operational leadership of the Wehrmacht, Walter Warlimont ... In Moscow, our military was connected through military attache Ernst Kestring, a native of Moscow ...

On September 20, Kestring had a hard day, but it was even hotter for the Russians and Germans in the Lvov area. The Germans had already essentially entered Lvov, but ours had also entered there... As

usual, everyone believed that he had occupied the city, especially since the Germans did not want to give Lvov away. It was possible to understand them - after all, they were going to Lvov with real and difficult battles - not only Soviet tank units.

In skirmishes, ours mistook the Germans for the Poles. On September 19, two reconnaissance armored vehicles were fired upon by soldiers of the 1st German mountain division and opened fire themselves. The Germans lost 5 people, and both cars burned down along with the

crews. But soon, on the personal instructions of Hitler, the Wehrmacht retreated 10 kilometers west of Lvov - to the line of temporary demarcation ...

And the units of General Guderian in Brest were calmly awaiting the approach of our units - by agreement, the demarcation line passed along the Bug, and the Brest fortress was to retreat to us. By September 20

a young Russian guy arrived there in an armored car - a communications officer. Later, the brigade commander Krivoshein also arrived - to receive the area.

The two tankers quickly found a common language, although it turned out to be French, which they both spoke. The Germans held a farewell parade in the citadel, the flags over the fortress changed, and by the evening of September 22, Guderian's headquarters was already in Zambruv and began to disband the corps. The campaign was

coming to an end. During its loss of German troops amounted to approximately 45 thousand people, of which ten and a half were killed. A month later, on

October 31, 1939, Molotov stated in his speech that Germany was in the position of a state striving for an early end to the war and peace ... And it was true ... It is generally accepted that on

September 1, 1939,

World War II **began** . However, as Molotov accurately defined in a speech on September 17, September 1 only began the German-Polish war. And if not for the irresponsibility of England and France, then by the end of September it would have ended. And peace would be restored in Europe. Yes, everything could be limited to the German-Polish war. But on September

3, the world war had already begun - after the declaration of war on Germany by England and France.

Or rather, not wars, but a *drole de guerre*, a "strange war" ... LET'S WALK through the streets of "military" Paris in the autumn of 1939 ... And let's take Nikolai Palgunov as a guide - fortunately, we already know him, and he knows Paris very well ... Although it would be easier, perhaps, to just listen to his story about those days.

So, let's ask: -

Well, how did life in Paris change with the outbreak of war, Nikolai Grigorievich? - Very

few ... Everyone was minding their own business. Shops traded as usual: no one stocked sugar, coffee, canned goods. However, from the very first day of the war, measures were taken to save food benefits: two days a week, grocers did not sell chocolate, one day they did not sell coffee, twice a week in

restaurants limited the menu ... But it was not forbidden to buy two chocolate bars instead of one ...

Leopold Emery, having arrived in East France in October, was amazed to see a night glow over factory chimneys just a few miles from the "front" ... This is how France "fought" in

1939 ... And here I will make a small

reservation ... Although the author uses various printed sources in the widest possible way (how else could he, who lives in the 21st century, learn about what happened long before his birth), the author is not very inclined to divert the reader's attention in one way or another in the real years following the year of the fortieth... After all, the author intends to describe from November the fortieth year not the world that has

really developed, but the one that could very well be! And therefore, direct references to sources, say, of the sixties of real history, are undesirable for

the author. But this time, obviously, the only time I will deviate from my own position and, with a direct reference to the third volume of the History of Diplomacy, published by Politizdat in 1965, of real history, I will quote from page 788: "The breath of the approaching danger was ***felt and in Western capitals. In Paris, trenches were dug in the streets, shop windows were filled with sandbags.***

But a competent eyewitness gives a fundamentally different picture of Paris. So why did the "historians of the Central Committee of the CPSU" lie? Personally, although I understand ***why***, I still can't understand ... Especially since N. G. Palgunov's book "Thirty Years" was also published by Politizdat, and a year earlier - in 1964, a real story ...

And I think - what would happen if we peered into life and its realities without prejudice, without "licking", but with understanding and taking into account these realities? Perhaps then both the real 1940s and the real 1990s would have been different for Russia and the whole world - more intelligent and humane?

The ones that the author intends to tell about in due course... In the meantime, we are still in the real year of

1939... And I must say that this year the French... also "advancing", oh than at some point all Western newspapers made a lot of noise.

However, this was not so much an offensive as the advance of the French beyond the line of the Franco-German border in the Saar region. On September 9, ten divisions of the 2nd Army Group penetrated the forefield of the German Western Wall (the Allies called it the "Siegfried Line") on a front 25 kilometers wide to a depth of 7-8 kilometers (according to other sources, on a front of 32 kilometers, a depth of 3-8 kilometers) at Spichern,

Hornbach. The Germans immediately retreated without a fight to the line of the main fortifications of the Western

Wall - as they were strictly ordered. Allied newspapers rejoiced: "The French army put Hitler in front of a most difficult strategic dilemma!", "The French entered German soil for the first time after Napoleon!"

Let us note in parentheses that, it turns out, having "won" the First World War, the French could not enter German soil ... But this time they did not act at all like a determined Corsican. And they limited themselves not to energetic marches, but to false demarches. On September 10, Gamelin informed the now fugitive Polish government: "More than half of our active divisions on the Northeastern Front are fighting." In fact, on September 12, the Supreme Council of the Allies met

for its first meeting in Abbeville (the British had already sent symbolic military contingents to the continent, and the Council was formed). And the very first decision of the Council was the decision to stop the "offensive" ...

True, they continued to lie to the Poles. On September 14, Gamelin sent a letter to the Polish military mission, which stated: ***"The last meeting of the Allied Supreme Council determined the firm determination of France and Great Britain to provide Poland with all possible assistance. The forms of this assistance are outlined with our British allies after a thorough analysis of the general situation, and I can assure you that not a single possibility of direct assistance to Poland and her army will be left without attention."***

And what - the general actually didn't lie very much! Firm **determination** is just determination. Decided and then changed. And what is **planned** after careful analysis will not necessarily be implemented. And finally, **don't ignore** something means

just that it is something to be scrutinized. Learned, not used!

And actually, on the 14th, it was no longer possible to either reassure someone or help someone who has real power in Poland. Instead of power and an army, there was already chaos of an inglorious end.

Chapter

9 Fronts visible and invisible

FINALLY, the Polish front was liquidated by October 7, but already on September 19, Hitler delivered a speech in Danzig ... He told Germany what a jubilant leader could say to the country and people in the moment of the long-awaited and, frankly, not very expected triumph. He spoke about Germany and for Germany, but he spoke - which was quite revealing - about Russia as well:

— Russia is organized on principles that differ in many respects from ours. However, since it turned out that Stalin sees in these Russian-Soviet principles no reason to maintain friendly relations with states of a different worldview, National Socialist Germany also no longer has an incentive to apply a different scale here ...

As you can see, Hitler had already overcome many of his doubts about an alliance with Russia, and here, presumably, not only the entry of the USSR into the territory of the lands previously seized from it, but also the general attitude of the Germans towards this alliance with the Soviet

Union played a role ... And this attitude was predominantly not just positive, but even joyful. Even - in the NSDAP, especially since the concept of "steaks" was not without reason in the party. So they called the former "Reds", who then became "brown", but inside they remained "red" to one degree or another ...

As for Poland, soon after the end of hostilities, that part of its territory that had been part of Germany for more than a century became part of the Reich. Part of the purely Polish lands, including Lodz, renamed Litzmanstadt, also entered the Reich. But after all, the old Poland, without a doubt, included Ukrainians and Belarusians ethnically alien to it. Western

Ukraine and Western Belarus were reunited with the greater Soviet Ukraine and Belarus. The population of the USSR increased by 12 million people, including 6

million Ukrainians and 3 Belarusians. 3 million fell to the share of Poles and Jews ...

From the remnants of the "honor" Poland, which willingly included lands that did not belong to it, or rather, willingly accepted such gifts from the Entente and the USA, the "General Governorate of the Occupied Polish Regions" was formed with its capital in Krakow. However,

as we will see a little later, Hitler did not rule out the re-creation of some kind of "residual Polish state", but only one that would cease to be a source of tension in Europe. In the meantime, a fairly strict regime has been

established in the General Government. But if you know how the Polish authorities behaved with their own citizens - Western Ukrainians and Western Belarusians, then it was very difficult to reproach the Germans, who behaved harshly with those who would have been even more severe with them if the Germans had not entered Warsaw , and the Poles - to Berlin. The first excesses began during

the war. On September 10, the SS artillerymen of the tank corps drove the Jews of one shtetl into the church and killed them all. The tribunal gave them a year of imprisonment, but the commander of the 3rd Army, General Kühler, did not approve the sentence due to its leniency. It came to the high command of the Wehrmacht ... Of course, the Polish

people experienced a tragedy, but they themselves chose such rulers who led them to tragedy and could not lead to anything else. They say that the people are worthy of their rulers, but this is not always the case. However, in the case of Poland, it could be said that the rulers were worthy of the people. Regarding

the Jews, there was another nuance, which will be discussed said later...

There was enough in the tragedy and farce ... At the end of September, Cardinal Primate of Poland Hlond came to Rome to cry to the pope. Hlond got out of Poland, by the way, with

the help of Guderian. On the 21st, Pius XII received the primate, and on the 28th, Hlond's voice sounded on the Vatican radio:

you are not abandoned! By the will of the Lord, you will rise in glory, my dearly beloved and unfortunate Poland!"

True, when Hlond, the Polish ambassador to the Holy See, Casimir Pape, and the Jesuit general Ledochovsky came to the pope, and when the pope told them absolutely the same thing - Christ, they say, one day will gather to repay your tears, the Poles were disappointed. They would have preferred more material support ... But such support came from the other

side. Immediately after Hlond's first radio sermon, Italy recalled that it was the only supplier of electricity for the Vatican radio station with a capacity of 25 kilowatts ... And it's a sin ... And - laughter ... AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF events was closely watched from across the ocean ... America's

"isolationism" is a commodity for the outside consumption, as well as for particularly restless screaming Yankees inside the States. But the screamers were noisy, and traditionally the masses willingly listened to them. Therefore, the Golden Elite had to drive it into the martial law corral carefully and step by step.

That is why, a year and a half before the European military start, President Roosevelt made a cunning "feint" ... Through the Washington ambassador of London, Sir Ronald Lindsay, he sent Chamberlain a secret message, which was handed to Lindsay by Deputy Secretary of State Samner Welles (this figure will be encountered in the future) ...

Roosevelt proposed nothing less than an appeal to all countries of the world with a call to reach an agreement on disarmament, the implementation of treaties on providing access to sources of raw materials, and for this, the convening of an international conference in Washington ...

Roosevelt also proposed to involve France, Germany and Italy in it... The absence of Russia, Japan and China spoke for itself...

The message is dated in different ways: sometimes on the 11th, sometimes on the 12th, and even on the 13th (!) of January 1938. Leopold Emery gave the last dating ... But it is known for sure that Roosevelt insisted on an answer before January 17 and demanded the strictest secrecy, because, they say, he is extremely afraid of the possible reaction of the "isolationists" if they find out about something.

Chamberlain hesitated, and there was something... He conducted his own difficult negotiations with Italy, reasonably doubted the success of Roosevelt's idea and, moreover, saw nothing attractive for the British colonial empire in the formula "providing access to sources of raw materials..." And Chamberlain proposed the implementation American plan to "postpone"...

Actually, the United States was counting on this ... Under the secret messages about "disarmament", America spent almost \$ 6 billion in five years, from 1934 to 1939, which was comparable only to the spending on armaments in Germany, but in Germany in 1934 in general there were no serious armed forces - objectively vital to it. But the United States knew how to put up "smoke" political curtains ...

And Roosevelt's message of January 13 was just one of them...

Here is what can be said, dear reader, as a kind of introductory remark to the further story. On September 3, 1939, Britain

and France declared war on Germany. And on September 3, 1939, Roosevelt declared the neutrality of the United States. On September 5, he

additionally published two declarations - the usual one on neutrality, and a special one confirming adherence to the law of May 1, 1937 prohibiting the export of military equipment to warring countries.

So, the US "washed its hands"?

Uh, no!

Is it possible to wash hands that since the First World War (and is it even from it?), Like every "war" dollar, were - according to Lenin - clods of dirt and traces of blood?

The dirt and blood were washed away, the dollars remained, but the hands... It was impossible to wash the hands, because they were still reaching for the dollars stained with mud and blood...

The US interest in the European war manifested surprisingly quickly. As early as September 5, they shouted to the whole world about neutrality and ranted about "isolationism" at home, and already on the 21st ... And already on the 21st,

Roosevelt convened an emergency session of Congress. And, opening this united gathering of Democrats and Republicans from

Senate and House of Representatives, he proposed to repeal the law prohibiting the sale of weapons to warring countries. On

the same day, Fortune magazine published the results of a "public poll" of the US population. Only 17 percent of him "spoke" with reservations in favor of the US entering the war, but 80 percent "wanted" Germany to be defeated.

If we remember the assessment of the bourgeois press by the Frenchman Alphand and know that even at the beginning of the 20th century the US press was in the hands of Jewish clans (the official assessment of a number of tsarist diplomats who worked in the USA), then ...

There was no doubt that senators and congressmen, alarmed ahead of time, would be attentive to such a manifestation of the "voice of the people" ... They were attentive ... Congress,

by a majority of 55 to 24 in the Senate and 243 to 172 in the House of Representatives, lifted the embargo on arms exports, only banning American ships to enter military zones. It was the principle of "pay and carry." Risk - to the carrier, dollars - to the "mercifully" sold. Formally, Germany could also buy weapons and raw materials ... But

"public opinion"...

But why did everything in the US change so quickly, right up until the emergency session of Congress? There was

no particular mystery here, although the answer both then and later was carefully hushed up: "Yes, because the sharp change in the position of the United States was directly related to the sharp and unfavorable change in the European situation for the United States."

On September 19, Hitler in Danzig - already firmly German - made the first hint of Germany's readiness to compromise with the Allies. Poland at that time as a state no longer existed - even the supreme power was already in the "nets" ... In France, and even in

island England, to continue the war, the more "strange", the war is not clear why, there were less and less hunters. Already in the second half of September, England - in the words of the "golden internationalist" Emery - "was swept over by a wave of defeatism" ... 75 percent of the letters received by Chamberlain

these days,
urged him to end the war.

On October 3, Lloyd George demanded in the House of Commons that "every proposal for a peace settlement, wherever it may come from, should be carefully considered at a specially convened conference." And on the 6th, by the way, Hitler made such a proposal

- I will tell you more about this later ... And what could come of all this? Undoubtedly, a fast European peace. As a result, it is true, France would feel uncomfortable, but it would be able to complete the Daladier Line (which it was already building) in addition to the Maginot Line, and thereby neutralize Germany's possible ambitions. In England, Churchill would not have come to power, but this would mean the possibility of resuming the "spirit of Düsseldorf" in relations between Germany and England, objectively not only disadvantageous for the United States, but deadly for their plans for world domination.

The condition for peace on the part of England and France (which the USSR would obviously support) could also be the preservation of Poland - cut off from two sides, but with its capital in Warsaw, that is, "independent". Of course, such a Poland would never be taken into serious political consideration by anyone, but that would be for the best. The Soviet Union would

have received its ancestral lands, would have been strengthened and entered into a system of European security, the guarantor of which would have been the friendly character of German-Soviet ties. At the same time, between the Reich and the USSR there would be a "buffer" in the form of Poland, dependent on the favor of both Germany and the USSR. And not France,

England and the USA ... And this "buffer" was also a good guarantor of peaceful relations

between Russia and Germany. It appeared that America **was threatened by** a lasting peace in Europe! And this meant the complete collapse of all carefully thought out and prepared plans for the development of such a European conflict, in which the United States

would again be the supreme judge. That is why it was necessary to hurry and urgent "allies"...

The rapid reorientation of the United States from declarative neutrality to real support for the Anglo-French exposed the States as

a genuine warmonger, as the only power that is really interested in it.

The United States was increasingly the only country in the world deserving of the name of the Evil Empire...

The ominous - there is no other way to call them - the plans of the United States were clearly visible from the words that our acquaintance William Christian Bullitt said in the autumn of 1938 to his Polish colleague in Paris, Ambassador Jozef Lukasiewicz:

"Perhaps Germany will be able to direct its expansion in an easterly direction... Democratic countries would not mind if it came to resolving disputes between Germany and Russia through war... and Russia will fight without a common

border? Bullitt at the beginning of November 1938 went overseas for a three-month (!) "vacation". And then, in mid-November 38, Roosevelt recalled the American

ambassador from Germany and announced that the United States did not intend to resume normal diplomatic relations with the Reich.

The hypocrisy and hypocrisy of American presidents is comparable only to their own infallible arrogance, and therefore Roosevelt, who so easily broke off normal relations with the second - in many respects - country in the world, on April 14, 1939, in a message to Hitler and Mussolini already known to us, wrote things so amusing, that I will simply quote part of his message: ***"Nothing is able to convince the peoples of the world that any government has the right ... to bring war ... on the head of its own or any other people, except only for granted in the defense of its country."***

By that time, the United States had more than once brought down the war on the heads of many peoples - excluding its own - in the Philippines and South America, in the Far East and in Europe. Since the time of the Monroe Doctrine, that is, since the 1920s, the United States has proclaimed its right to exclusivity in foreign policy, equivalent to the right to be the master where they themselves consider it necessary for themselves.

And now the nephew of Theodore Roosevelt, who viewed an external war that was not being waged at all for the defense of his country, as some kind of entertainment like hunting, Franklin Roosevelt, in a manner characteristic of his uncle, taught Hitler: "Coming out with this statement, we Americans say **this not because of selfishness** (it's true that the criminal exposes himself by the very nature of the justification. - S.K.), **not because we are afraid or weak ... We say this ... with the voice of strength and friendship for humanity ... International problems can be resolved at the conference table**".

But just "conferences" with the aim of restoring peace in Europe Roosevelt and the Golden Clan did not want to allow in any way ...

Having occupied Warsaw, the Germans also received at their disposal the archive of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs - the Poles could not even take it out or at least destroy it ...

Ribbentrop's people, sorting through these rubble, looked for a lot of interesting.

For example, the Polish ambassador in Washington, Count Jerzy Potocki, after a conversation with Bullitt returning to Paris to his duty station, telegraphed in cipher to Warsaw on January 16, 1939, that Bullitt "is traveling with a whole" suitcase "of instructions, records, conversations and directives of Roosevelt and senators - members **of the commission on Foreign Affairs**"... Pototsky reported that, in his impression, Bullitt **"received from President Roosevelt a completely precise definition of the position that the United States should take in the current European**

crisis"... Bullitt should have set the French Foreign Ministry on Cae d'Orsay accordingly, and in general "European statesmen", informing them of the content of the presidential directives ...

The conversation between the Yankees and the Pole itself reminded, however, of a briefing, for, with all its richness, it lasted only half an hour.

Directives formally Roosevelt, but in fact - Golden supranational Elite in Potocki's encryption looked like this:

"1 . Revival of foreign policy under the leadership of President Roosevelt...

2. United States military preparations for war at sea, on land and in the air, which are being carried out at an accelerated pace

and have already absorbed a colossal sum of \$1,250,000,000 (it is interesting that at this time, when the United States had already spent a billion and a quarter dollars on military preparations, Roosevelt's staff "scribbler" - Robert Sherwood, argued that "the defense of the United States consists of a piece of paper called the law of neutrality."—S.K.).

3. The resolute intention of the president to put an end to any policy of compromise between France and England with totalitarian states. They should no longer engage with them in any discussion aimed at territorial changes.

4. The moral assurance that the United States is parting with the policy of isolationism and is ready in the event of war to actively come out on the side of England and France. America is ready to place its financial resources and raw material resources at their disposal. "

April, when Roosevelt turned to Hitler and Mussolini.

Is it any wonder that with the outbreak of the war, Congress is very confidently and quickly lifted the arms embargo.

And one more detail... The position of the United States was brought to the attention of the Poles not through the US ambassador to Poland, or at least through the Parisian ambassador Lukasiewicz, but through Potocki, who was sitting in Washington... Yes, the Yankees clearly did not trust the Paris-Warsaw cable. After all, he also

went through the territory of the Reich ... But it was, so to speak, Bullitt's farewell conversation in the Washington embassy of Poland. And the first time he appeared at Pototsky's immediately after his arrival in the United States - November 19, 38

of the year.

— Count, only war can put an end to the wild expansion of Germany and this maniac Hitler ...

- And how do you imagine it? - States, England and France must arm themselves and ... - But how will the collision happen? Potocki was surprised. "I just don't see a lead for such a combination when Germany attacks England and France first!" "Well, it takes two years for democracies to be fully armed. During this period of time, one can hope for eastern expansion

Hitler. We would like it to come to a military conflict between the German Reich and Russia...

Bullitt paused, supposedly thinking, then continued: . The real potential of the Soviet Union is unknown. But one can hope that Hitler will be doomed to a protracted and weakening war. - And then ... - And then the democracies would attack

Germany and force her to capitulate! It was a complete algorithm for a new pitting of

Germany and Russia. And Potocki in Washington could have asked Bullitt the question that Lukasiewicz did not ask him in Paris: what would happen to Poland, lying between the Reich and the USSR? But instead, he asked Bullitt another direct question: - Will the US participate in the war against Germany? "Undoubtedly, yes," the Yankee assured him, "but only

after France and England strike first...

In the archives of the Poles, there were also records of long conversations in Paris with the returned ambassador Bullitt, ambassador Lukasevich in

February 1939 ... Lukasevich was worried about the same questions as Pototsky and reassured him like this:

- Having won in Europe, Germany in the future may threaten our real interests on the American continent ... We will not allow this ... - And what can you say

about your interests here? asked the Polish ambassador. "The newspapers say that the president said the border of the United States is the Rhine.

This rumor is false! But I can say for sure that the president expressed his readiness to sell aircraft to France, because the French army is on the first line of defense of the United States! - How about England? If she

compromises with Berlin? The United States has various and extremely

effective means of coercion against England ...

- And they will be launched?

"Yes, if there are tendencies towards compromise in England.

- You in the States are so irreconcilable to totalitarian ideologies? the Pole asked, allegedly incomprehensibly.

What does ideology have to do with it? the Yankees categorically cut off. - Washington's position is determined primarily by the real interests of the United States! If a war breaks out, we will certainly not take part in it from the very beginning, but we will end it! That is, in addition to the official military

guarantees of England and France, the Poles in the spring of 1939 also received unofficial, but very significant guarantees from the United States.

At the same time, all these guarantees were intended not to preserve peace, but to provoke the Poles to war. The main (and in fact - the only) instigator of the world war turned out to be the one who was supposed to be them - Uncle Sam from the overseas Empire of Evil. And his long-range calculation was, as we see, on the conflict between the Germans and Russians ...

It turned out, however, not yet according to Bullitt ... On September 3, the new plenipotentiary of the USSR in Germany, Shkvtsev, presented his credentials to

Hitler. "Mr. Chancellor," said the Soviet plenipotentiary, "together with the trade and credit agreement, the Soviet-German non-aggression pact lays a solid foundation for friendly and fruitful cooperation between the two great European states in the economic and political fields.

Hitler was concentrated, and Shkvtsev continued: -

In this sense, the treaty marks a historical turn in international relations and opens up the broadest positive prospects.

Hitler nodded, and the new plenipotentiary finished his short speech:

- Starting to fulfill my duties as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in Germany at such a crucial moment, I allow myself to express the hope that in your person, Mr. Your government, I will meet the due confidence and active support necessary for the successful fulfillment of the responsible task entrusted to me by the government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ...

The arrival of the Moscow ambassador to Berlin, when the Wehrmacht had already indicated the direction to

Warsaw, spoke for itself. And if at the beginning of September Shkvartsev appeared in Berlin, then at the end of the same month Ribbentrop appeared in Moscow to conclude a German-Soviet treaty of friendship and a

border between the USSR and Germany. The treaty was signed by Molotov and Ribbentrop on 28 September. It contained five articles, the most significant of which were I, II and III on the principles of delimitation, and the most promising - IV: "***The Government of the USSR and the German Government consider the above reorganization as a reliable foundation for the further development of friendly relations between***

their peoples." The preamble said: "***After the collapse of the former Polish state, the Government of the USSR and the German Government consider it solely as their task to restore peace and order in this territory ...***"

On September 29, the treaty was published in Pravda (and not in Izvestia, like the August Pact). The

additional protocol on a specific delimitation, which was mentioned in article II of the treaty, was signed on October 4 by Molotov and Schulenburg, and published six months after the signing of the main treaty in the 10th issue of the Vedomosti of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR dated March 29, 1940. Ribbentrop's

SECOND visit differed from the first very significantly - the Reich Minister met in Moscow with a completely friendly, almost cordial reception. Yes, and there was

reason to meet the German emissary in this way. After all, whatever one may say, it was thanks to the risk of the Fuhrer and the success of the Wehrmacht that the Soviet Union almost bloodlessly solved the problem that had been a headache for him for almost twenty years in a week.

However, when work began on the final text of the friendship treaty, they quickly agreed on the delimitation in the former Poland, but disagreements arose with the delimitation of spheres of interest - Stalin insisted on including Lithuania in our sphere of influence. Ribbentrop called the Fuhrer

directly from the Kremlin:

"My Fuhrer, the Russians are claiming Lithuania..."

Not very satisfied sniffing was heard in the receiver... Then Hitler said: "I agree... Let

this be proof for the Russians of my sincere desire to reach a compromise and establish real relations of mutual trust..."

Returning after the conversation to Stalin, Ribbentrop said: "The Führer agrees and said that he would like to establish a complete

close relationship.

"Herr Hitler knows his gesheft," Stalin briefly threw in response ... Already after the

signing of the treaty, Ribbentrop was quite sincere exclaimed:

- Herr Stalin! There should never be another war between Germans and Russians. I am convinced that we should never cross arms! Stalin thought deeply,

then slowly, as if still pondering, he answered: "Perhaps it should have been so after all ...

Advisor Hilger also translated slowly ... Ribbentrop was struck by the unusual wording, and he asked Hilger: "Noch einmal ... Hilger translated again ... And now Ribbentrop fell silent ... Stalin

answered much more restrained than he

expected, but what was behind this? A secret desire to transfer all the same Bolshevism to Germany? Or the sincerity of a great man of historical proportions, who does not want to get rid of such an interlocutor at such a moment with the usual diplomatic phrase and honestly expressed his doubts about Ribbentrop's confidence, while recognizing, however, the possibility of his being right? Then Ribbentrop, since his sincere remark evoked the same deep reaction, risked already consciously probing Stalin: "But if this is so, Herr

Stalin, does our treaty create the possibility of a closer alliance for future battles against the Western powers?" Stalin thought again... And then he said with some

great conviction:

"I will never let Germany weaken! RIBBENTROP
was struck by the huge
confidence in the strength of the Red
Army, And he again
thought ... But this time the hosts did not stint on entertainment and
distractions: the All-Union Agricultural Exhibition, "Swan Lake" at the Bolshoi
Theater, banquets ... He gave a brilliant

banquet in the Kremlin in honor of the guest and Stalin ... Joachim von
Ribbentrop was not a natural aristocrat - only at the age of thirty-two, adopted
by his childless aunt, he received the right to the noble prefix "von" to the
surname. But what is high society, the son of an artillery major knew well,
becoming in 1920 the husband of Annelise Henkel, the daughter of the
largest merchant

champagne.

Nevertheless, the banquet delighted him with both the sophistication
table, and the natural simplicity of manners behind him ...

He was also surprised by something else ... In Moscow, there was a
film "Peter the Great" - about the tsar. The picture hanging over the flight of
stairs in the Kremlin Palace depicted Tsar Alexander II with a manifesto on
the abolition of

serfdom ... These Russians, it seems, no longer dreamed of a world fire, but
loved their country dearly...

At the banquet, the Fuhrer's Reichsminister was introduced to Stalin's
entire Politburo. Toast followed toast, Molotov talked a lot, whom Stalin
himself encouraged to do so, members of the Politburo came up to
Ribbentrop, who was sitting next to Stalin, to clink their glasses to their
health. There were

enough drinks on the tables, but Ribbentrop later said in Berlin that
"brown vodka, which was distinguished by its special strength," was especially
popular. Of course, it was the Starka, and the German was breathtaking from
her. But Stalin drank his glass easily ...

The tipsy Ribbentrop could not stand it and leaned over to his
neighbor: - Herr Stalin, I admire the superiority of Russian sips over
German ... Your brown vodka is something devilish!

"Herr Ribbentrop," the almost sober Stalin laughed, winked and
confessed, "in my glass all the time only Crimean

Madeira... She has the same color as Starka, but not the same fortress at all... - Oh!

Ribbentrop was surprised at first, and then laughed himself... And at the table they

drank to each of those present, up to the secretaries... And everyone clinked glasses with the guest... And the whole atmosphere in general was friendly and uninhibited. The top of the Bolsheviks turned out to be not at all stupid and servile. On the contrary, already on the plane on the way back, Gauleiter Danzig Foerster confessed to Ribbentrop: "I

must say, Reich Minister, that at times I felt just among my old Parteigenossen ...

ON RETURN to Berlin Ribbentrop.... But by the way ...

However, running a little ahead, dear reader, let's fast forward for a few minutes to peaceful Moscow of the fortieth year, on Volkhonka, 14. There, hardened by the Arctic and changes in the political climate, the editor-in-chief of the Great Soviet Encyclopedia Otto Yulievich Schmidt just takes in the hands of a brand new 46th volume, published by the State Institute "Soviet Encyclopedia" just in 1940.

Let's wait until it reaches the article "Poland" and quietly peep over the shoulder ...

The academician was carried away, and we can slowly read: "The German-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Border between the USSR and Germany of 28/IX 1939 precisely defined the boundaries between mutual state interests on the territory of the former Polish state. Article II of the treaty says that "both Parties recognize the boundary of mutual state interests established in Article I as final and eliminate any interference of third powers in this decision" (see the newspaper Pravda, 1939,29 / IX, No. 270, p. 1) . Thus, this article knocks the ground out from under the feet of all those who like to rake in the heat with the wrong hands. The pharisaic cries of imperialist Britain and France about Poland's "historical role" are nothing but crocodile tears and a manifestation of rage at the sight of the collapse of their desires. Imperialist, patchwork, reactionary, based on the social and national oppression of the Polish lords and the bourgeoisie, Poland has come to a historical end.

Let's leave the academician alone with the joy of the birth of the forty-sixth encyclopedic "son" and think - what was in this article from the political topic of the day, and what from the historical pattern? Little Denmark, having

powerful neighbors, was able to defend itself as a national state in all historical troubles ... Of course, at the time of its power, Denmark was by no means small, but, having reduced to national territorial limits, it did not let strangers go further. And although with all its geographical position it was just asking for inclusion in the Reich, Hitler only occupied it in 1940 due to military necessity, but did not annex it. I will say more about this...

But with Poland they acted differently! Is it because there was truth in the TSB article?

In any case, there must have been quite a few of them there...

However, let's go back to Berlin at the beginning of

October 1939... Hitler spoke with his minister about the visit that had just ended

more than once... - Who do you remember most of all, Ribbentrop? - Marshal Voroshilov and Minister of Transport Kaganovich. "Oh, is that the Jew whose health you drank to in August?"

- Yes my Fuhrer! - In Germany, he is considered the head of the internal Soviet Jewish clan, closely connected with the world kahal! "I don't think so, my

Fuhrer! - But he is ranked among the largest behind-the-scenes persons International Jewry!

- My Fuhrer, my conversation with Herr Kaganovich was very short, but meaningful. In addition, I carefully observed the faces and reactions during both of my visits to Moscow ... And then I thought a lot ... - And what is your conclusion? -

Oh, it's simple:

there is no serious talk about any actions led by international Jewry and agreed between Moscow, Paris, London and New York ... As well as about some kind of cross-links ... In the Moscow Politburo -

and this is an absolutely omnipotent organ for the whole of Russia, except for Kaganovich there

is not a single Jew ... Ribbentrop fell silent, looked at

Hitler and added:

no jewish cunning...

Hitler listened, thought, nervously clenched his fingers... After listening, he said by no means formally:

"Perhaps, Ribbentrop, you are right... And

on OCTOBER 6, Hitler, directly answering Lloyd George's speech on October 3, delivered a speech in the Reichstag. He supported the plan of the "lion" of British policy and himself proposed to convene a European conference to discuss the problems that arose in connection with the fall of Poland, as well as the problems of colonies and the limitation of armaments.

He spoke of not being in conflict with France and England, and again spoke of Russia:

- If a common interest with Russia was manifested in the attack on Poland, then it is based not only on the homogeneity of the problems that concern both states, but also on the homogeneity of the experience that both states have acquired in shaping relations with each other ... Reichstag deputies, almost all in one form or another -

party or military, they listened in such a way that it was clear: there was no internal, deaf resistance to what the Fuhrer was saying. And he continued:

"Soviet Russia is Soviet Russia, and National Socialist Germany is National Socialist Germany. But one thing is certain: from the moment both states began to mutually respect their different regimes and principles, there was no reason for any mutual hostile relations.

The hall froze, because he heard something completely different more than once, and what he heard now touched too much on something deeply hidden to the soul - doubt in a successful fight already with all of Europe, and not only with it ... Hitler, as if answering to these doubts, he said:

- The Pact of Friendship and Spheres of Interest gives both states not only peace, but also the possibility of a happy and lasting cooperation. Germany and Soviet Russia will jointly deprive one of the most dangerous places in Europe of its menacing character and, each in

their field, will contribute to the well-being of the people living there, and thus to the European world...

What Hitler said seemed to remove doubts, but it more and more involuntarily appeared on the faces, where the thought was more and more clearly read: "Will it work out?" ... And Hitler

answered her: "Both states are determined not to allow problems arose in which lies the core of internal unrest and which could adversely affect relations between the two great powers. Therefore, Germany and the Soviet Union drew a clear boundary between areas of mutual interest ...

In view of his proposal for a European conference, Hitler also said about Poland: "The

government of the German Empire will never allow the residual Polish state that later emerged could become an interfering element for the Reich itself, or even more so a source of interference between it and Soviet Russia ... So, Hitler offered Europe a lasting

peace on the condition of recognizing the obvious fact that Poland must be brought back to its natural state. And such a state could only be an actual national-cultural autonomy, formalized by some kind of statehood, but completely politically dependent on those two countries for which Poland was a threat factor for a long time not because of its strength, but because of its readiness to serve forces hostile to both Russia and Germany...

It would seem that there could be no special barriers to pacification if... If there weren't that powerful supranational and extranational Golden Elite on the planet, whose plans were directly opposite...

Realizing this, Hitler himself hesitated. At 17.00 on September 27, he began another meeting to analyze the situation with the generals. The essence of the political part of his analysis was that it was necessary to prepare for a war to forestall plans to strengthen England, since time does not work for

Germany ... On October 10, he repeated this idea, handing over to the generals his memorandum with a plan for a powerful strike against France through Belgium and Holland, if his proposals for peace are rejected.

The generals were inclined towards a long-term defensive war ...

With the GENERALS, in general, everything was far from simple ... At some point, they began to almost sabotage the idea of transferring blitzkrieg to the West. Canaris also contributed, for whom an undefeated England was a more attractive prospect than its defeat of Germany with some kind of support from Soviet Russia ... As early as September 10,

Chamberlain wrote in his diary: "What I hope for is not a military **victory** (**I doubt very much whether it is possible**), **but the collapse of the German home front.**

We already know something about who the English prime minister (and not he alone) could hope for in the collapse of Germany ... But it's time to find out

something else ... On November 7, 1939, Colonel Hans Oster arrived by night train from Berlin in Frankfurt am Main to meet with Colonel Vinzenz Müller. Oster served

as head of the central department of the Directorate of Intelligence and Counterintelligence as part of the Wehrmacht High Command (Oberkommando der Wehrmacht), often referred to in short - "Abwehr". Müller served as

Chief of Operations at Army Group C, commanded by 63-year-old Colonel General Ritter von Leeb. Leeb, like General Beck, belonged to the "old"

school and in March 1938 was even transferred to the reserve with promotion to colonel general, but already in October of that year he led the troops that occupied South Bohemia. The commander of the 1st Army of the "C" group was 58-year-

old Colonel General Erwin Job Wilhelm Georg Erdman von Witzleben (promoted to colonel general on November 1 for the Polish campaign). Müller, on duty, often contacted both those and those ... Colonel

Oster, who had recently exchanged his forties, was also one of the most trusted officers of the head of the Abwehr, Admiral Canaris.

Colonel Müller was in his early forties... However, Oster started the conversation first, not by right of senior in age, but by right of senior by... conspiracy.

Yes, yes, according to a very serious conspiracy against Hitler, which Oster, Witzleben and other senior officers of the Wehrmacht have been plotting since the summer of 1938. Even then, Witzleben, called up from the reserve (in 1938, like Leeba, was temporarily "cleaned out of the Wehrmacht") was extremely dissatisfied with the Führer. And, commanding the 1st Army on the Franco-German border, he was ready in the event of hostilities - as a possible result of the Sudeten crisis - to raise his troops not against the French, but

against Hitler. Instead, Witzleben soon occupied, without firing a shot, those very Sudetenland, which he saw - until success - only as a source of war. In general - a typical grump from the old Reichswehr ... But - with ambitions ...

And now his emissary Oster sat in front of Müller and said: "You already know from Witzleben what it is about... The treatment of the population of Poland, especially the intelligentsia and Jews, outrages the army... Hitler must be eliminated even before the start of the campaign in the West..."

is there before? .. - asked Muller. -

There are different opinions on this matter - from an immediate offensive to a desire to wait, whether Hitler will agree with England ... Oster took out

two sheets of tissue paper from his briefcase: - These are copies of appeals to the people and to the

Wehrmacht. Muller took it and began to read: ***"The victims of the Polish campaign... A long war is dangerous... The prestige of Germany, which unleashed the war, is falling... The Wehrmacht must be united in the interests of the entire German people... It is necessary to elimina***

Oster, meanwhile, taught: -

The difficulty is that you need to devote as few people as possible to the matter, but you need more reliable people at a crucial moment. The main thing is not to leave written documents during the preparation ...

Muller was

surprised:

"So why did you bring this to me?" He waved the sheets of thin paper.
"Well, to discuss
them... Besides, I keep them in a safe
safe," Oster reassured.

"You're an old scout!" There are no absolutely reliable safes... And
one more thing... You arrived by night express, from me you will go to
Witzleben by car... And what if something happens on the way? No, let's
burn it in my big ashtray... The basics are clear and best kept in mind.

Oster agreed, and soon a fleeting small fire raged in the crystal
ashtray... Under its reflections, Oster said: - You can only count on
Wehrmacht officers. The fleet is entirely on the side of Hitler, as well
as the Luftwaffe ... You should not rely on Brauchitsch, it all depends on
Halder and Witzleben .. The Admiral will refrain from active actions, because
he does not want to violate his many ties outside and inside the country ...

"By 'Admiral' do you mean Canaris?" Mueller stated. "Well, of course,"
Auster
grimaced, but explained: "However, he
help with advice.

"Advice is good," Muller persisted. - Who, where and
under what circumstances should Hitler and Goering be eliminated?

- That's the whole point! Auster sighed. "No one wants to take it upon
themselves... Someone suggested hiring a professional bandit for a large
amount of money..."

Müller's eyes widened at such professional military ideas, but Oster
shook his head. "Of course, that's nonsense!" Easier with
place and time. Hitler will certainly go to the Western Front, as he went
to the Eastern Front... One thing is clear - this should not be done in Berlin..
-And Goering? - There will be more trouble! After all, except
in the service

and at Karinhall, he almost never happens anywhere ... The fire in the
ashtray had burned out long ago, it was

necessary to say goodbye. "I would like to speak to Witzleben,"
Müller asked. - Necessarily! Here, as they say, measure seven
times, once -
cut off! The main thing is that Witzleben must put pressure on Halder...

Immediately after the guest left Berlin, Muller sought out the Chief of Staff of Army Group C, Lieutenant General von Sodenstern, and together they went to von Leeb to discuss Oster's news ...

Leeb instructed Müller to go to Witzleben in Bad Kreuzenach. And Mueller went there. And at 9 am on November 10, he was already in Zossen, at the General Staff of the Ground Forces near Halder. He went on conspiracy matters and to General Stulpnagel, the 1st Ober Quartermaster, Halder's closest assistant. However, Halder hesitated... Stulpnagel was more resolute... Arriving at Leeb's in Frankfurt on November 13, he told him and Müller:

"There is no time to waste!" Perhaps the attack on France will soon begin, and then everything will become more complicated. Moreover, there are

high-ranking civilians who are ready to take over the leadership of state affairs ... Stulpnagel fell silent, and then chopped off: - Although, of course, a state of emergency will have to be introduced ... Dear reader, I hope that the author has already said that when the war was still only a possible prospect,

the German elite opposition strengthened the West
and the Poles in the need for a firm line with Hitler. When the war became a fact,
they also encouraged the West that

they will come forward, and thus they programmed the continuation of the war.

But even when the German-Polish war ended in a German triumph, these "patriots" still provoked the Anglo-French into a military confrontation with Hitler's Reich instead of conciliation with him and still promised a quick and successful plot against the Fuhrer. The real result of this fuss was one thing - the prolongation of the war. But von Leeb himself wrote in his diary on October 3: ***"The***

population is in a bad mood, no enthusiasm, no flags on the houses, everyone is waiting for peace. The people feel the need for war."

Throughout the twenties and thirties, the Germans lived with the hope of throwing off the yoke of Versailles, regaining respect for themselves, and Germany - power, returning Danzig ... The generals,

respectively, sighed about a strong army, without which
the victory so desired by the generals is impossible.

By October 1939, Hitler's policy had produced a powerful army, a new Germany, eliminated the results of Versailles in full, ensured the friendliness of Russia with the exclusion of a war on two fronts, and now the people are in despondency, and the generals are in a conspiracy ...

Y-

yes... But events developed further... November 8, a day after the Abwehr Colonel Oster met in Frankfurt am Main with Army Colonel Müller... However, first things first... OCTOBER

21 Head of the IVE Group of the

4th Directorate of the Main Directorate Reich Security (RSHA) 29-year-old Walter Schellenberg, in the pouring rain that covered the Dutch town of Zutphen, walked to a roomy Buick limousine, driven by an aristocratic-looking man with a monocle in his eye. Sitting in the Buick, Schellenberg introduced himself: "Captain Schemmel. "Captain Best," he heard back. The

reader already knows about Payne
Sigismund Best. He

looked like a typical Englishman, but he

was actually half Indian, which, however, made his thin face even more noble, and his manners more refined. As an employee of the "Z" branch, an independent organization within CIC (MI6), Best was fluent in four European languages, was educated, loved music, played the violin ... Best's wife, daughter of the Dutch general Van Rees, became known as good portraitist.

He also loved music "Captain Schemmel", a member of the officer's anti-Hitler group of the Resistance - this is how he was introduced to Best by his trusted agent, but in fact - secret agent SD F.479.

The conversation in the car turned to the most secular topics, and acquired a businesslike character only after Major Stevens and the Dutch intelligence officer Captain Klop joined Arnhem in Arnhem (the latter, however, called himself by the fictitious English name Coppens, which was for a neutral citizen country as a reasonable precaution).

Richard Stevens worked in The Hague under the traditional cover of MI6 as a British passport control officer.

management. He was already in contact with representatives of General Beck (the real conspirator), and in order to convince the Germans of his high authority, MI6 asked the BBC to slightly change the traditional radio news headline to Germany in a prearranged way. Now Stevens, without introducing himself,

was peering attentively at the new German. Schellenberg knew about his true duties, but, of course, did not show it.

"We know about you in absentia," Best began to really get to know each other, "but now tell yourself who

you are?" "I represent an opposition group in the highest spheres of the Wehrmacht. The leader is a general whose name I am not authorized to reveal to you.

- What are

your goals? - The violent overthrow of Hitler and the establishment of a new regime. And we would like to know the attitude of the British government to this development of events. We would like to conclude such a secret agreement, which, if we succeed, would lead to a peace treaty.

"Oh, His Majesty's Government attaches great importance to achieving peace and would welcome the elimination of Hitler," Stevens said. "However, we are not personally authorized to make political commitments, although we are in direct contact with the Forum Office and Downing Street.

- But ... - Let's meet again on October 30 in The Hague, at the central bureau of our intelligence on the continent?

- Agree! The

bait that Heydrich threw to London in the form of Schellenberg-"Schemmel" worked ... And the three of Schellenberg left for the second meeting. He was accompanied by the same SD agent who first brought the Schemmel to Zutphen and Schellenberg's best friend, Max de Crinis, professor at the University of Berlin and head of the psychiatric department of the famous Charité clinic, and a colonel in the medical service to boot. Gray-haired,

somewhat old-fashioned, stately, elegant, with a slight Austrian accent, he gladly agreed to play the role

the right hand of the group leader.

At noon on the 30th, all three reached that crossroads in Arnhem, where the familiar Buick was supposed to be waiting for them ...

However, almost an hour had passed, and the British were not there. On the other hand, two policemen approached the Germans' car, and one of them, without further ado, got into the car and ordered to

turn towards the station. And an extremely polite and extremely thorough search began ... The thoroughness of the Dutch failed. They started with de Crinis' luggage, while Schellenberg was horrified to see in the agent's luggage dumped on the table a package of aspirin in a wrapper with the inscription "SS Sanitaetshauptamt" ("General Sanitary Directorate of the CO").

And Schellenberg broke out in a cold sweat for the first time - because he still had to sweat as a result of his resourcefulness. He grabbed the tube, dropped the hairbrush on the floor and, leaning over it, discreetly shoved the entire package into his mouth right with the paper...

The threat of exposure was eliminated, and then the search proceeded calmly. After him, the interrogation began, but then "Lieutenant Coppens" entered the room, presented an identity card and rescued the "conspirators" in two minutes ... They saw a

Buick on the street, and Best began to apologize warmly

- they say, we were waiting for you at the wrong intersection ...

"Schemmel" nodded reassuringly, and Schellenberg stated with satisfaction that they had passed the test successfully, for he was well aware that the "mistake" was not accidental ... At

breakneck speed, the guests and hosts reached The Hague and there, at the Stevens residence, they agreed on this ...

After the overthrow Hitler, England concludes peace with Germany on the condition of the return of Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland to their original status.

Germany abandons its economic policy (independent and nationally oriented) and returns to the gold standard (that is, under the arm of the Golden Elite of the world)

What about the colonies? "Schemmel" insisted. -

Yes, this must be borne in mind, but alas, there is already an established system of mandates," Best shrugged his hands...

In these fleeting "negotiations" in The Hague, as in a muddy puddle, the face of an allegedly "national" and "patriotic"

oriented top opposition. In fact, the overthrow of Hitler meant a return to Versailles, national disgrace and subjugation to the States, with all the ensuing social

consequences.

That is, the success of the Beks, Witzlebens and Leebs in 1939 would mean the collapse of Germany as a great power of a great people. They

drank to this coming "success" in Best's house, where the table was magnificent. The "nail" turned out to be oysters, and the soul of the society was de Crinis ... Only late in the evening the guests were taken to the villa ...

At ten in the morning, after a hearty breakfast, the Germans were supplied with an English walkie-talkie, ciphers, call signs ... On November 7, a new meeting was scheduled in a cafe in the town of Venlo near the German-Dutch border ... On November 8, Schellenberg and West met again ... A trip to London was supposed.

On the 8th, the commander of a special SS detachment came to Schellenberg in Düsseldorf (he was sixty kilometers from the border), who, it turns out, insured the Schemmel, taking control of that section of the border on which there was a German customs and a Dutch checkpoint . The SS man had the task of preventing the capture of the Schemmel if it failed ... The guard and the ward discussed security measures and

options and parted in anticipation of a dream ...

ALREADY THE HISTORY of "Schemmel" looks, I must admit, like pure detective literature, although even the above dialogues are basically documentary. But on November 8, 39, this half-unbelievable story is woven into another one - as real as it is amazing ... Yes, and mysterious ... On the night of November 8-9, Schellenberg was awakened by a call. Reichsführer

SS Heinrich Himmler

personally called (whom Walter Schellenberg did not even see closely at that time) and informed Heydrich's half-asleep subordinate that in the evening, after the Fuhrer's speech at the traditional meeting of old party members in the Munich beer hall "Bürgerbraukeller", there was an unsuccessful attempt on him. Hitler left a little earlier, seven people died, more than sixty were injured, the hall was destroyed.

"The Fuhrer and I are sure that the British are behind this," Himmler said, "and you must immediately arrest all three during a meeting with their agents tomorrow and deliver them to Germany ...

- But ...

- No "buts", this is an order. It may be necessary to violate the border ... Holland is neutral, but the Fuhrer says that it does not matter. So the explosion in the "Burgerbraukeller" became the detonator of the famous "incident in Venlo" ... Its

scheme turned out to be the

following ... Immediately after Himmler's call, Schellenberg and the SS developed a plan to capture. It was decided that the Schemmel and an assistant were waiting in a cafe on the Dutch side in Venlo, and the car with the SS men would stand behind the German customs building and, as soon as it saw Best's huge black Buick, would rush right through the Dutch barrier. The SS men - under automatic bursts up - capture the English "trinity", and the car in reverse (the SS driver knew how to do it masterfully) leaves for Germany, where Schellenberg and his partner break through in their car ...

The plan was a success, but - as it happens not only in detective stories, but also in real life - with "corrections" ... "Coppens" began to shoot back and was seriously wounded (already in Düsseldorf he died, and from the documents it became known that he did not English "Lieutenant Coppens", and the Dutch captain Klop) ... Schellenberg himself was almost shot by mistake by his own ...

Best and Stevens began to be interrogated, and they told a lot ... But they had nothing to do with the assassination attempt, the only participant in which was the 36-year-old carpenter Georg Elser.

That, however, did not mean the organization of the assassination attempt from outside. Elser at one time worked for four years at a watch factory, knew how to turn and had skillful hands. No interrogations (without torture, but with the involvement of the best hypnotists of the Reich and Pervetin - "truth serum") did not change his testimony: he prepared the

assassination alone. There was a lot of darkness in the story with Elser. The press in the West attributed everything to Himmler himself, but this was nonsense, if only because someone, and Himmler, understood perfectly well that the fall of Hitler would mean his fall as well.

Hitler himself? But to stand on the podium in Munich next to a column stuffed with explosives, relying on the accuracy of the clockwork or on the endurance and coordination of the actions of the performers from the special services? No, and the Fuhrer had nothing to do with it ...

Elser could also be a loner - the head of the Gestapo Müller put a carpentry workshop at his disposal, and Elser lovingly reproduced his work there. But the experts found that the detonators and explosives were of foreign origin...

Elser was sent to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp and then to Dachau in the hope that he might ever speak, but he was silent

ZATO Fuhrer on November 23, 39th had to make three speeches in a row and talk intermittently for a total of seven hours!

He spoke to the highest generals, up to the corps commanders, as well as to the commanders of units and formations on the eve of the offensive operation in the West as part of the Gelb (Yellow) plan, which was developed back in October and has already been postponed several times. The speeches made a great impression on the generals, and Witzleben,

returning to Bad Kreuzenach, told Vinzenz Müller that the conspiracy had no prospects yet ...

The Fuhrer's speeches were really impressive. It was all at once - a public confession of a political fighter, and a review of the history of Germany, and a retrospective analysis of the events of recent years, and a program for the future ... Speaking of

Russia, the Fuhrer said: - We have an agreement with Russia. Treaties are respected for as long as is reasonable. Russia will observe it as long as it considers it to be good for itself. Bismarck thought so too ... It must be said that by the time this speech was delivered, the USSR had signed agreements

on mutual assistance with Estonia on September 28, with Latvia on October 5 and with Lithuania on October 10 (October 12, by the way, we proposed to conclude the same agreement and Finland, which was followed by a Finnish refusal).

Hitler knew about this, like the whole world, but - as we see - did not consider these actions of the USSR a violation of the terms of either the Pact of August 23, or

Contract dated 28 September. However, he had enough doubts about our plans, and he stated: - Russia is doing what

it considers useful for itself ... At the moment, internationalism has receded into the background for it. If Russia refuses it, it will go over to pan-Slavism... It is difficult to look into the future... But the fact is that at present the combat effectiveness of the Russian armed forces is insignificant. For the next year or two, the current state will continue ... He ended like this: - If we victoriously stand in the struggle - and we will survive it!

Our time will go

down in the history of our people. I will stand or fall in this fight. I will not survive the defeat of my people. No capitulation outside the country, no revolution inside it!

The last words were not addressed specifically to anyone, but we, dear reader, know that they had an addressee. And - not only in the meeting room on November

23 ... However, even after this meeting, which in principle aimed at psychologically preparing the armed forces for an offensive operation in the West, no offensive actually followed. As early as November 3, Halder wrote in his diary: "Not **a single command authority considers the offensive ordered by the OKW as promising success ...**"

On November 5, Hitler canceled the offensive, then he canceled it again, and as a result, a strategic pause came in the hostilities of the German ground forces.

The struggle of opinions and the streak of doubts continued until the end of February 1940, when the Gelb plan was radically changed in comparison with the plan of the General Staff and, to a large extent, in comparison with the one proposed by Manstein and Rundstedt in October 1939.

However, before its true start on May 10, 1940, the offensive was postponed 29 times.

At sea, the war was going on, but also so far without much bitterness ... Let me remind you that on September 5, the British, in a raid on the Kiel Bay, damaged the "pocket" battleship "Admiral Scheer" and the light cruiser

"Emden" ... In the distant Atlantic Ocean, three British cruisers "Exeter" , Agex (Ajax) and Ekilez (Achilles) blocked

December 13, 39, the German battleship "Admiral Graf Spee" off the coast of Uruguay.

Launched in 1934, the "pocket" battleship had six 11-inch guns, eight 6-inch guns and eight torpedo tubes at a speed of 26 knots (almost 50 km / h) and a crew of 1,107 people. Having entered the Atlantic to intercept English merchant ships, the Spee soon sank nine of them with a total displacement of 50 thousand tons - a lot. But now he himself was squeezed, having on board up to three hundred captured Englishmen from the "merchants". The battle went

on for 15 hours, the Exeter was heavily damaged, on the Spee 30 people were killed and 60 wounded. Captain Langsdorf took the battleship to Montevideo Bay, asking the Uruguayans for 15 days for repairs. But they gave only two, after threatening with arrest.

At 18.00 on December 17, the Spee weighed anchor and left the bay in tow. Then the tugboats withdrew, and the battleship, which was considered practically unsinkable, was shrouded in smoke - artillery cellars were blown up on it. Three minutes later he

sank. The captain, who received Hitler's personal order to sink, his team and captured British reached the shore and were interned there. Three days

later, forty-five-year-old captain zur see (captain of the 1st rank) Hans Langsdorf, who had served in the Navy since 1912, turned into a battleship flag in a hotel room and shot himself.

More successful were his younger colleagues - submarine commanders. Thirty-year-old Lieutenant Commander Otto Shewhart on U-29 sank the British aircraft carrier *Koreijs* on September 17, and his peer Lieutenant Commander Gunther Prien on U 47 earned deafening national fame and the nickname "Scapa Flow Bull". On the night of October 13-14, he managed to get to the main base of the English fleet - Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands, located north of the northernmost tip of the British island. There, in the roadstead, Prien torpedoed the pride of His Majesty's fleet, the battleship *Royal Oak*. Admiral Blangrove and 832 crew members were killed, and Prien received the Knight's Cross from the hands of the Fuhrer. And the entire crew is Iron Cross II class.

But the twenty-six-year-old lieutenant commander Fritz Julius Lemp with the U-30 was very doubtfully lucky already on the second

day of the war. Mistaking the English liner Athenia for an auxiliary cruiser, he torpedoed it and sank it two hundred miles west of the Hebrides. Lemp was clearly wrong. And,

realizing this, he did not radio about the "success", but reported personally to Admiral Doenitz already on the shore. All this was so serious that the sheets in the logbook were replaced - after all, on September 7, the German government in an official communique dissociated itself from involvement in the sinking of the ship. And Goebbels put forward a version that this was the work of Churchill, who was trying to quickly draw the United States into the war in this way, because there were also American citizens on board the liner ... Lemp was mistaken ... But Goebbels ... The press immediately unanimously called "Athenia" - "Lusitania " Second

World War. And was it so wrong? External analogy lay on the surface (however, more precisely - already under the surface of the water). But what about objective, logical connections? The fact that the English liner "Lusitania" during

the First World War was deliberately "framed" under the torpedoes of the submarine "U 20" captain Schwieger, I wrote in my book "Russia and Germany: play off!" And in the spring of 1915, Secretary of the Navy Churchill "set up" the Lusitania in alliance with the Golden International and precisely with the aim of evoking an indignant reaction from the United States. After official warnings from the imperial German embassy in the United States about the danger of a voyage in conditions of submarine warfare, military cargo was loaded on a ship with 1257 passengers (including Americans) and 702 crew members. And at the same time, Churchill deprived him of an escort off the coast of England, knowing that a German boat was raiding this area. So with the Lusitania, understanding and knowledgeable people had everything

It's clear...

What about

Athenia? Why did she go out into the ocean with 1102 passengers on board on the days before the storm? The German liner "Bremen", detained in the port of New York on the personal instructions of the "neutral" President Roosevelt (detained intentionally, in view of the possible subsequent interception by the English cruiser Berwick), went on a return voyage

August 30 to the sound of the anthem "Germany above all!" ***without a single passenger!*** Even before the start of the war!

And "Athenia" left at about the same time with a good thousand of them! And, already knowing about the beginning of the war, having the flag of a belligerent power, knowing about the boat danger and the likelihood of error, she approached the danger zone in the evening - Lemp spotted her at 19.30, when it was already getting dark. But it was possible, after all, to slow down the pace - until the morning, and turn off all the lights. And in the morning at maximum speed, on the contrary -

give signals, burn flares ... Like, I am a "passenger" ... But, no! Moreover, "Athenia", just like the "Lusitania" at one time, was actually not abandoned by fate. But something too quickly on the "SOS" "Athenia" immediately responded to a lot of ships. And the Norwegian tanker Knut Nelson saved almost everyone (out of 1417 passengers and crew, only 128 died, of which 122 were passengers, including 28 Americans). It even "coincidentally" that

both of the dead liners belonged to the famous Cunard Line company. If the ships of the no less famous competitor - the White Star Line - were traditionally named with the ending in "...ik" - "Olympic", "Britanic", "Majestic", "Titanic", then the Cunard ships traditionally had names ending in "...": "Albania", "Saxony", "Aquitaine", "Mauritania" "Lusitania" ... "Athenia" ... In London, by the way, there was a club for the elite "Atheneum", and the word itself went back to ancient Athens ... The first

Athenaeus
(Atheneus) -

an elite ancient institution of antiquity, was founded in 135 by Emperor Adrian ... And not with a hint of the elite "Atheneum", but at the same time - and the "Lusitania", someone chose the "Athenia" as a new victim? After all, behind-the-scenes forces are

very fond of such symbols, which would be put on public display, but would be understandable only to the initiated. Of course, most likely, Athenia was simply unfortunate for itself in the schedule of Cunard flights, but ...

Who knows? The secrets of the Golden Elite are terrible because
Looks like they are in sight...

But go prove it!

PRIN sank the Royal Oak at the end of 1939, the Wehrmacht and, accordingly, the Republican French and Royal British troops on the continent took a strategic pause, Goebbels reminded the French by radio that England had drawn them into a senseless war and again intended to fight for their goals to the last French soldier ... Ah ... Although, actually, I promised the reader to tell something

about the situation
around the Jews of Poland, and not only Poland ...

After Britain and France declared war on Germany, Hitler sent a message to the NSDAP on September 3, 1939, in which he blamed "our Jewish-democratic world enemy" for starting the war, calling him "the capitalist warmonger of England and its satellites" ...

If we remove the "national" part of this assessment (for the Golden Elite of the world is non-national), then such political maturity of the Fuhrer could only be applauded. Yes, and in relation to the "national part" one could notice that it is connected not with a purely ethnic moment, but with class moments. And one more thing - Hitler's appeal

was just a response to a statement made on September 1 by the chairman of the Jewish Palestine Agency, 65-year-old Chaim Weizmann, that the Jews of the whole world stand on the side of Great Britain and will fight on the side of democracy ...

And on September 5, The Times published the text of Weizmann's already open letter to Chamberlain. And Chaim Weizmann, who was born in 1874 in Russia, had every reason and right to speak on behalf of all the Jews of the world, if only because since 1921 he had been the chairman of the World Zionist Organization and the leader of the General Zionist Party, and since 1929 he had been and the post of chairman of the "Jewish Palestine Agency" - the main pillar of England in the Middle East. And it was Weizmann who negotiated with Lord Balfour in 1917 ... In fact, the Weizmann

declaration was a declaration of war on Germany by the Jews, while it was impossible to discount the fact that in any country in the world the majority of Jews gave priority not

duties of a citizen of the country, but informal duties to fellow tribesmen.

And it turned out that the Polish Jews - without dissociating themselves from Weizmann's statement - put themselves in a certain sense in the position eternally at war - with the ensuing consequences ...

At the same time, it must be remembered that the Polish government of Mościcki and Beck was downright anti-Semitic. Not anti-Zionist, but anti-Semitic. So the mass mood was appropriate. And the Polish nationalists in relation to the Jews in the occupied territories were no more compassionate than the Ukrainian nationalists ... And the Germans did not neglect the services of the nationalists - both those and those. And the anti-Jewish terror in Poland stimulated the rallying of Jews all over the world around Weizmann and his

ilk... So the knot of the "Jewish" problem in Poland was tightened from two sides... And one side was the top of the Zionists... As a result,

the situation was stained with innocent blood... And some in Germany itself did this with very specific goals ... Although, in general, the situation in Poland could be characterized by the words uttered by Governor-General Hans Frank at a meeting of department heads on January 19, 1940 and entered in his diary:

"On September 15, 1939, I was instructed to take *over management of the conquered eastern regions. At the same time, I received a special task to consider this acquisition as military ... booty, unconditionally pump out everything from there, turn it ... into a pile of ruins. Today* (that is, just two months after the end of hostilities. - S.K.), *the general government is considered as a valuable component of the German living space ...*

***My attitude towards the Poles can be compared with the attitude of an ant to a wood aphid. If I am friendly to a Pole ... then I do it on the basis that his performance will benefit me ... This is a purely tactical and technical problem, not a political problem ... "This was said cynically, but in fact it was no different from the attitude* towards natives**

in English, French, Belgian,

Dutch colonies.

On March 8, 1940, at the same meeting, Frank also said: "We will have to reckon with the growing contradictions that arise in relation to us in the circles of the Polish intelligentsia, the church and senior officers (note that neither Polish workers nor peasants are mentioned here . — S.K.) ... There are already organizational forms directed against our domination in this country. However, the slightest attempt by the Poles to do anything against us will lead to an incredibly brutal campaign to exterminate the Poles. Then I would not be afraid of the use of a punitive regiment ...

From what Frank said, it followed that almost six months after the formation of the General Government, the Germans did not carry out cruel unmotivated anti-Polish terror. Moreover, at the same meeting on March 8, Frank reported: "**I gave the order that several hundred members of such secret organizations be arrested for three months so that nothing happens in the near future ...**"

That is, there was no talk of any "atrocities" yet ... Frank, after all, did not speak to the press, but to his apparatus, holding an ordinary working meeting ... Three months of preventive arrest of those who, on the instructions of the government that had betrayed Poland, now tried to raise the people to "resistance to the invaders » in conditions when the Poles have convincingly proved to the whole world their inability to exist independently within the framework of independent statehood?

Yes, such "intellectuals" could be "screwed" and what more abruptly! By the

way, the legal proceedings in the former Poland on the cases of the Poles was carried out according to approximately general imperial norms.

And a little more about the situation with the Jews... As early as April 12, 1940, Frank, after conversations with generals, including division commanders, living in the capital of the Krakow General Government, found out that they were "forced, due to the housing crisis, to live in houses in which, except for the general, all tenants are Jews. The situation is the same for all categories of officials ... "So, seven months

after the occupation of Poland in the occupation capital in its best houses (German generals and imperial officials did not settle in the slums!) Jews still "terrorized" by the Germans lived! And not just lived, but completely occupied these elite houses !

I don't know how anyone, but this detail seems to the author both somewhat unexpected and clarifying

something ... BUT THIS is so, by the way ... But in general, the author wanted to report that while someone was sinking ships and drowning on them, made speeches and listened to orders, the mistress of the French Prime Minister Edouard Daladier, the Marquise de Crussol, waged an implacable war of attrition with the mistress of the future short-lived French Prime Minister Paul Reynaud, the Countess de Port. They say that from the great to the ridiculous is one step ... But how often this one step separates the funny from the petty and vile ... Reynaud was worth Daladier, Daladier was worth Reynaud, the marquise was worth the countess and vice versa, and all of them were not worth a soldier's spit...

But the squabble of two high-ranking whores in the coming months was detrimental - as people in the know competently stated - was reflected in the entire political and military situation in France ...

Although what does the premiere whores and their premiere lovers have to do with it? Like Poland, which had already collapsed, the whole of France was ready to

collapse ... But we will still have a conversation about this ...

1939 was coming to an end ... On October 16, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR established the Gold Star medal - the insignia of the

Hero of the Soviet Union. On October 18, Hitler awarded Günther Prien the Knight's

Cross for the Royal Oak ... On October 19, an Anglo-French-Turkish mutual assistance treaty was

signed in Ankara ... In the same October, the Soviet Union concluded, as the reader remembers, mutual assistance treaties with Latvia and Lithuania (the same agreement was concluded with Estonia on September 28) ... And the professor of the Academy of the General Staff of the Red Army, commander Dmitry Mikhailovich Karbyshev, said in a private conversation: "Now our situation is such that we can do what we want, and such states as Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, should be included in some large state. It has long been proven that small countries cannot exist independently and are only a cause of discord.

The thought was not stupid, and therefore it came to mind many...

But here, far from everyone understood this obvious truth... So, on October 12, 1939, the USSR extended a hand of peace and Finland... But the Finns did not see it point-blank... They did not see anything special in the fact that the second capital of Russia - Leningrad - could be fired upon by long-range artillery from the territory of Finland - the border passed so close from it. We proposed to correct this situation. The Finns refused. And on November 30, 1939, the Soviet-Finnish

conflict began, which in Finland was called the "winter war". In those days, even the anti-Soviet Leopold Emery wrote: "in

connection with the Russian invasion of Finland ... The League of Nations showed the last pitiful sign of life, withdrawing Russia from its membership."

On December 2, the United States of America declared a "moral embargo" on trade with the Soviet Union. BUT

ABOUT all of this we will learn in the next chapter...

Chapter 10

Heroes of "Kalevala" and "pig heads"

politicians

STILL at the beginning of the summer of 1939, on June 8, in a conversation with our London plenipotentiary Maisky Lord Halifax said: - We consulted with

all the Baltic countries and came to the conclusion that none of them wants to be openly guaranteed. — Did your consultations include Finland as well? Maisky immediately asked. - Yes! And I

must say that it is the Finns who are especially opposed. As the reader, I hope, remembers, at that

time the penultimate act of the English farce "Negotiations with Moscow" began and it was about guarantees from England, France and the USSR to a number of small European countries against their possible occupation by Germany. It would seem foolish to refuse peace guarantees. But for the three bourgeois Baltic remodelers - "limitrophs" any guarantees from the USSR were unacceptable in

advance. They were already preparing to conclude friendly treaties with the Germans - which was done by Latvia and Estonia in August 1939. After Memel, Lithuania "tucked" its tail in advance without an agreement, especially since in August Lithuania still had to reckon with the factor of Poland, which since October 1921 "chopped off" from Lithuania that Vilna region with Vilnius-Vilna, which on July

12, 21 of the RSFSR ceded to Lithuania under a peace treaty signed in Moscow. In the same August, the Chief of the Imperial General Staff of Great Britain, General Edmund Ironside, inspected the Mannerheim Line in Finland ... By the way, immediately after that, the Germans also inspected it ... Especially since they also built it for the Finns. And the Finns continued to move to "nowhere" ... PEOPLES do not always behave smartly, and in the 20-30s of the real history of the 20th century, even the seemingly smart Finnish people behaved more than stupidly towards the Russian people ...

Only the Russians themselves sometimes act stupider towards the Russians... But it would not be a serious exaggeration to say that the Finns owe it to the Russians to preserve their national identity...

Yes, the Finns have been fighting for it for centuries - but not with the Russians, but with the Swedes. Thus, the Swedish king Gustav I Vasa, who ruled in the 16th century, adopted Protestantism and extended it to Catholic Finland. As a result, the Finns lost, for example, almost all national sculptural masterpieces, since Gustav ordered all the saints cast in metal to be melted down for state needs. 12 silver statues of the apostles that stood at the main altar of the cathedral in Turku (the Swedes renamed it Abo) also went into the oven ... Gustav, by the way,

founded in 1550 the future capital of Finland - Helsingfors (already renamed Helsinki in the 20th century). Since then, the pressure of Swedish influence in Finland has grown and grown ... And if Russia had not won it back from Sweden in the war of 1808-1809, then the status of a seedy Swedish province could become the fate of the country of Suomi. Well, let the

reader judge for himself... Only almost sixty years after Finland became part of the Russian Empire, in 1866, the school reform introduced education in Finnish schools in Finnish instead of Swedish...

In fact, we also have the Finnish opinion on this subject of such a well-known Finn as Mauno Koivisto, who directly admitted that “ ***Finland developed and matured into an independent state as part of the Russian Empire***” and admitted: “ ***Such a result would certainly not have been achieved under Swedish authorities...***

Actually, the runes of the famous Finnish epic "Kalevala" were collected and processed by the Finnish poet and folklorist Lenrot in the already "Russian" period of Finnish history - in 1835 the first 32 runes were published. And in 1849 - all 50. And the creator of the magical musical instrument kantele - Väinämöinen, as well as the blacksmith Ilmarinen, who forged the windmill of happiness - sampo, soon became known in many countries of the world ... The

vicissitudes of the Russian revolution gave Finland independence. And now the northern capital of Russia was under the threat of a simple

artillery shelling from the adjacent territory. The reason for

this was not the power of the Finns, but the generosity of the Russian Emperor Alexander the First. It was he who in 1811 truly royally annexed the so-called "Old Finland" to the newly acquired Grand Duchy of Finland, that is, those Swedish (or rather ancient Russian) lands that Peter the Great conquered from Sweden! And as a result of this typically *racial* generosity, the borders of autonomous

Finland came close to St. Petersburg "with all the ensuing consequences." Reporting this, such a well-known Finn in real history as Mauno Koivisto himself wrote about one of these "consequences" - the interests of those Petersburgers who owned dachas on the Karelian Isthmus were affected. It would seem that the Finns have a century to thank Alexander and since then

to order grandchildren and great-grandchildren to be friends

with Russians ... Alas, instead of the former dachas on the Karelian Isthmus, guns began to appear in the thirties of the twentieth century. And it was all the more insulting because the Finns in the thirties were an even, proud, proud, extremely hardworking and clean people in circulation ... Nikolai Palgunov, already known to us, went to Helsinki in the fall of 1932 - a TASS correspondent ...

Later he told his friends: - We are going from Leningrad - there is not a soul at the stations ... Silence ... Cleanliness is perfect ...

- And who cleans it? - If it's clean, it means they clean it. But the main thing - do not litter, do not break...

"So you didn't see anyone on the platforms?" - I saw - about three hours before Helsinki stop. I look - someone comes out of the station in a cap with a white cover, with a gold cockade, a black jacket with shining buttons and a wide galloon on the sleeves, a snow-white collar ...

- Stationmaster? - Well, at first I thought that it was their admiral in general ... - But it turned out? - And

after a couple of minutes he taps the wheels at my car and adds oil - a greaser!

- Can't be! - Maybe ...

True, they later told me that they generally have one person working at small stations. He sells tickets, and translates arrows, and opens semaphores, and monitors cleanliness, and

reports are made...

And the reports? Well give!

- Yes, and reports ... And at the same time they are called - the station watchman ... From this story it was already possible to understand what was the secret of the economic and cultural success of the Finns ...

But...

But in the same clean and tidy country, able to work hard and live spaciouly - ten times more spacious than, say, the Germans, the ideas of a certain "Great Finland" were strong. University youth reveled in plans to expand the lands of the heirs of the creators of Kalevala along Lake Ladoga with access to the Pskov line, with the annexation of Karelia and St. Petersburg itself ...

The slogan of Per President Evind Svinhufvud was popular:
"Any enemy of Russia must be a friend of Finland"...

The surname "Svinhufvud", by the way, translated into Russian means "pig-headed", and its bearer in relation to Russia fully justified his surname ... But if we are not talking about the top, but

about the Finnish mass, then - in itself - she was Russian traditionally very loyal... And - not very loyal to other foreigners... During the Crimean War, the combined British-French fleet landed on the Åland Islands. These

islands, about which I will speak later, block the entrance to the Gulf of Bothnia, the eastern coast of which was then owned by Russia, and the western coast by Sweden ...

From a convenient island base, the allies began bombarding coastal Finnish cities and towns, but the Finns managed to give back ... Fisherman Mats Kankkonen and commercial adviser Anders Donner became heroes of the defense, and since then a song about the Åland war has become popular in Finland, when Finnish fire shuddered

Englishmen...

Another song was also popular among the Finns, where it was sung:

Thousands of Finnish guys
Leave the port of Helsinki
And won't stop
Until they reach Constantinople...

This was already in 1877, during the Russo-Turkish War... But the masses of Finnish "guys" are led by educated strata, and even in the 30s of the XX century, the country was very influential... the Swedish minority: nobility, landowners, bourgeoisie, with a ratio Swedes and Finns in the population 1 to 9.

And all this fraternity was not only saturated with hatred for Russia and Russian culture, but also had the opportunity to promote their...

But there were also educated "national intellectuals" ... And in the thirties, Finnish schoolchildren were already learning other lines ... Poet Uno Kailas wrote:

The border opens like a polynya,
Ahead - East, Asia ... Behind
- West and Europe, On
whose guard I stand ...

Yes, intellectuals are intellectuals in Finland too... A colleague from the Finnish "Huvudstadsbladet" complained to Tassovite Palgunov: "We have an overproduction of intelligentsia: for every ten inhabitants of the capital there are at least two or three the rest have some ranks - a graduate engineer, a rector, an editor ... - At our embassy there is a policeman with a professorial

view," Palgunov joked.

"I won't be surprised if he turns out to be a doctor of law," the interlocutor answered quite seriously. - In the "Rotonda" among the waiters there are masters of

philosophy ... Alas, the political philosophy of Finland was not built on a solid logical basis ... At the same time, it was also

painfully stupid ... With the same Palgunov in the spring of 34, a funny incident came out ...

Somehow he was invited to the press department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by 10:30 tomorrow for an "important message" personally by the head of the department, Kaarlo Nestori Rantakari...

Rantakari was not just a major official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but a confidant of President Svinhufvud, a compiler of his speeches and other things...

At 10.30 Palgunov was in the cramped office of the head of the press department with huge desk...

- Mr. Palgunov, I would like to make you a friendly performance. -

I'm listening ...

- The XVII Congress of the CPSU (b) is taking place in Moscow. -Yes. - So, in the reports, your press prints the words from the report that if a certain pig snout sticks its head in the Soviet garden, it will bitterly regret it ... Our president is very dissatisfied and believes that this

is an attack against him ... - But Mr. Rantakari, this is But it's a Russian idiom, and it's much older than Mr. Svinhufvud ... Our Gogol also wrote about pig snouts, but I hope you have no complaints about the classics?

- Oh no! Rantakari himself suddenly laughed. - But here the president...

BUT the RUSSIAN translation of the surname of the Finnish president reflected the situation exactly, if the second epithet is added to the first epithet - "dumb-

headed" ... The Soviet Union was gaining more and more power, and in Finland, not only university masters of philosophy and philosopher-writers, but government and military circles developed plans for expansion the territory of Finland to the Ladoga and Onega lakes with the capture of all of Karelia and the entire Kola Peninsula with, of course, Murmansk ... I don't know how

it is in Finnish, but in Russian such "plans" could only be called headless...

The Finns flirted very much with the Germans and counted on them very much, but they also flirted and counted on London and Paris, and even on Stockholm, but especially on Washington.

The Finns also counted on themselves.

And only at Moscow in Helsinki they preferred to look in perspective through the slit of the sight, or at least through a contemptuous squint of the eyes ... This could not be justified by anything, although in the early thirties the political coldness of the Finns towards us could still be explained by economics. The fact was that more than 80 percent of Finnish exports were timber and paper, and only 7 percent were engineering products. And the USSR was also the largest exporter of timber ...

However, by 1938, the Finns were made very profitable proposal ... In

early April, the second secretary of the Soviet embassy in Helsinki, Boris Arkadyevich Yartsev, was summoned to Stalin. A personal call to the Kremlin of a diplomat with such an insignificant status would be absolutely inexplicable, if one does not take into account the fact that under the "roof" of the embassy and under the pseudonym "Yartsev", the NKVD foreign intelligence resident Boris Rybkin was engaged in very significant.

His wife, the charming Zoenka Voskresenskaya, was in charge of the Helsinki branch of Intourist and was also a high-class career Soviet intelligence officer. In the legal Helsinki residency of the 5th department of the GUGB of the NKVD of the USSR, she was a deputy of her own husband.

However, even the second "profession" of Rybkin did not particularly explain the personal challenge, because the conversation in Stalin's office turned to diplomatic matters ... The reason was, most likely, Stalin's fears that the "Litvinovsky" NKID would only screw up in a delicate urgent problem ... In any case, Ambassador Asmus was urgently recalled from Helsinki ...

In addition to the owner of the cabinet, only Molotov and Voroshilov were there, and since Stalin did not know Rybkin before, he began by asking about his biography, about his service, about Finland. The case for Rybkin-Yartsev was a delicate one, and Stalin, naturally, wanted to understand whether Rybkin should be entrusted with it at

all ... He also asked about

the fleet ... - The Finns have a destroyer in the ranks, well, boats and two cruisers - Väinämöinen and Ilmarinen...

"Heroes of the Kalevala," Stalin remarked.

- Yes sir!

Rybkin here, by the way, was not entirely accurate - these two "cruisers" were actually old coastal defense battleships, but the formal belonging to the class of ships with the formidable name did not add combat capability to the "cruisers".

But Stalin had already switched to another

topic: - Did you have to meet with the composer Sibelius? - No,

Comrade Stalin ... Yes, he is already over seventy ...

Stalin, having clearly finished his study and made a conclusion, too, clearly positive, exchanged glances with Voroshilov and said: -

That's it, dear comrade ... comrade ... -

Rybkin, - prompted Rybkin ... - Yes,

- Stalin laughed, - sorry, I forgot ... You intelligence officers have so many surnames that you yourself, probably, you are confused ... So, the need for secret negotiations with the top Finnish leadership has ripened, but we instruct you to conduct them.

Rybkin, if he was surprised, did not show it - the endurance of this Ukrainian Jew with a rare origin for his nationality "from the peasants" was iron, for which his beautiful wife loved selflessly ... And Stalin continued:

- We want to conclude a bilateral defensive treaty, excluding the possibility of a German attack on the USSR through Finland ... We will give the Finns guarantees of their independence ...

- Comrade Stalin, the Finns are bogged down in their obligations to Hitler, with the help of the Germans they are building a powerful line of fortifications on the border with us.

"Yes," Voroshilov confirmed, "Mannerheim most of spending time in Germany...

"And at the same time, the nationalist armed detachments of the shultskor are three times superior to the regular army," Rybkin added. - The anti-Soviet campaign in the Finnish press is strong ... It is unlikely that the Cajander government will take any steps against Germany. Stalin got up, briefly said to Rybkin: "Sit!", began to walk along the carpet, took a puff from the pipe that he held in his left hand ... Then he went up to

Rybkin ...

Do you doubt your abilities? asked angrily

He.

— I doubt the abilities of the Finnish government! IN

Silence reigned in the office...

Who is Holsty targeting? Molotov asked. One could not ask who the former Russian subject, the royal page and cavalry guard Carl Gustav Emil Mannerheim, now the Finnish marshal and commander-in-chief of the Finnish army, is guided by. Eino Rudolf Holsti was Minister of Foreign

affairs...

— Holsti focuses, of course, on the Germans. But

he came to us, smiling. - I know for

sure that Holsti is of an absolutely German orientation! "Can I talk to Tanner?" Stalin himself asked the question. - He is the founder of the

Social Democratic Party, president of the International Cooperative Alliance ... - Tanner is an anti-Soviet both by

conviction of his soul and by the state of his pocket ... Rybkin, alas, was not

mistaken here either ... Väinö Alfred Tanner, 58, was prime minister in the twenties, and in the late thirties - the Minister of Finance. At the same time, he was a member of the leadership of both the powerful Social Democratic Party and the leadership of the largest Helsinki cooperative "Elanto" and the largest concern "Enso Gutzeit" (the balance of the latter exceeded a third of the country's budget). In general, it was the Scandinavian version of Figaro,

and indeed - in a convinced anti-Soviet performance ... And even in an anti-Russian one, besides ...

Again they were silent, then Stalin said:

"Negotiations are needed. First of all - about the contract ... In the second...

Again he was silent and

finished: - In the second, it will be necessary to conclude an agreement on the exchange of territories. Just think, - Stalin waved his hand with a pipe, - modern artillery is capable of shooting Leningrad from the Karelian Isthmus. Moreover, this line ... No, let them push the border, say, beyond Vyborg, and we will give them twice as much

territory in Karelia, with rich reserves of Karelian birch and mast forest ...
The Finns cut down the forests on their side there ...

And on APRIL 14, Yartsev, charge d'affaires of the USSR in Finland, replacing Asmus and his deputy recalled to Moscow, asked for an appointment with Holsti. The intrigued

minister made an appointment for the afternoon. After dinner, coffee is supposed to be drunk, and Holsti, having met the guest, led him to a round table with steaming cups on it...

The conversation was in German, and Yartsev quickly explained to Holsti what he was told...

Then he bluntly said that if the Finns allowed German troops into their territory, then the Red Army would have no choice but to target Finland as far inland as possible ... - An unpleasant prospect, Holsti admitted.

"However, the Soviet government is ready to provide you with military and economic assistance. We can also purchase your industrial products, especially pulp, as well as agricultural products for Leningrad ...

- But this means a radical revision of the country's foreign policy, Mr. Yartsev, and we have obligations to friends and neighbors.

"Our proposals do not damage the third plans... However, this is not all, Mr. Minister," Yartsev sighed. - Since the beginning of the thirties, a wave of the "Papuan movement" has risen in your country. In his program there is a demand for a Greater Finland, including Leningrad and all of Karelia... A small leak of information about our conversation is enough, and the fascist elements in Finland, with external support, may well organize a putsch... — Are you sure? "For now, that's all I can say, but the

main thing is, are you ready to accept our help?" Are you ready to continue negotiations without any further contact with any other Soviet diplomat? As I have already told you, I alone have exclusive powers ...

"Mr. Yartsev," Holsti answered very sourly, "without President Kallio, I don't decide anything ...

- Well, Mr. Holsti, I don't say "goodbye" ... On April 19,

Holsti talked with our new plenipotentiary Derevyansky, but it was pure diplomatic routine ... Yartsev, on the other hand, conducted conversations on the merits ... In addition to a number of public contacts, at the end of June he and On July 11, I spoke twice with Prime Minister Aimo Cajander, and on July 30, Cajander "locked" Yartsev to Tanner ...

So, it was not even political ping-pong, but rather a kind of relay race, where the Finnish leading politicians passed our emissary from hand to hand like a stick, while running in circles ... On August 18, Yartsev,

in a conversation with Tanner, said that we were ready to give guarantees to the Finns and to conclude a profitable trade agreement, subject to the admission of the USSR to the armament of the Aland Islands and the provision of a military base on the island of Suursari for rent.

The conditions were the most favorable - we only wanted to somehow secure our Baltic flanks, there was no talk of moving the border yet, but the Finns again ran "in a circle" ... And

the year 1938 was drawing to a close ...

Informal negotiations between Yartsev-Rybkin and Holsti, Cajander and Tanner gave only one concrete result - it became clear that the Finns did not want to conclude a full-fledged agreement, wanting to play for time and limit themselves to settling minor border incidents - then a Finnish plane would fly into our airspace, then a Finnish hydrographic vessel would be detained in our waters on Ladoga ... The year 1939 was already approaching ... AND

GRADUALLY the problem
of the Aland
islands ...

These islands are locked, firstly, Botnik. But they also control the Gulf of Finland. But in general - and almost the entire Baltic ... Therefore, it is not surprising that someone always really wanted to have military bases there, and someone - quite the opposite, did not want someone to have them there ... Until 1809, the

islands were part of Finland, and that - part of Sweden ... After the Russian victory in the last war with the Swedes, Aland became Russian. However, after the Russian defeat in the Crimean War (it was then Finnish fishermen and commercial advisers

fought off the British) Alands were demilitarized under the Paris Peace Treaty of 1856.

After 1917 - when Finland gained independence - both she and Sweden claimed the islands. But the Council of the League of Nations handed them over to Finland - as more anti-Soviet in comparison with Sweden, and even more advanced towards the USSR. The new status of the Alands was determined by the new Aland Convention of 1921 on the demilitarization and neutralization of the islands. On June 24, it was signed by Great Britain, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Finland, France, Sweden and Estonia. The RSFSR was not

invited to this company, just as they were not invited to discuss the fate of the Alands, although on October 2, 1919 and June 28, 1920, Russia sent two notes to the League of Nations, where it reminded that any treaty provisions that abolish the supreme rights of the Russian Republic to islands, no, but "the very geographical position of the Aland Islands at the entrance to the Gulf of Finland closely links their fate with the needs and requirements of the peoples of Russia."

After the conclusion of the Convention of the 21st year, on November 13, 21st, we sent a note of protest to all its participants, where we declared the Convention "certainly non-existent for Russia", since it was signed without our participation.

Nevertheless, the Convention, like the Alands themselves, existed, and at the end of the thirties Finland itself violated it, starting military work there. Taking into account the pro-German sympathies of the Finns, the prospect of militarization of the Alands absolutely "did not smile" at us, especially when you consider that the skerry Finnish coast of the Gulf of Finland was already blocking the activities of the Baltic

Fleet ... Yartsev already spoke about the Alands to the Finns ... But the negotiations were secret, Rybkin had no written authority it was, and it was always possible to pretend that the Finns simply did not believe in the seriousness of contact.

However, on March 5, 1939, the Finnish envoy to the USSR, Irie Koskinen, was summoned by People's Commissar Litvinov. It was already more than official contact. And after an exchange of the usual courtesies, Litvinov declared:

"Mr. Irie-Koskinen, in our relations with Finland, there are two important issues that need to be resolved in turn. This -

economic relations and the Åland Islands.

To solve them, you need to have an atmosphere of trust and friendliness. In our opinion, this could be achieved if you leased to us for thirty years several islands in the Gulf of Finland. Those who are of no value to you and not used, namely... Irie-Koskinen listened with Finnish equanimity, but with that elusive resistance

to what he hears, which just makes trust impossible... And Litvinov specified: - Namely: Gogland, Lavansaari, Seiskari and Tyuters. We do not intend to strengthen them, but use them as observation

posts that control the sea route to Leningrad ... After a pause, Litvinov finished: - Your consent will have a beneficial effect on

economic negotiations that began yesterday...

Koskinen opened his

mouth: - Of course, I will pass all this on to my government, but Hogland is not a small island. And there, it seems to me, there are several thousand people, a beach for swimming and tourists go there ...

Gogland - with an area of 20 square kilometers for everything, simply locked the Gulf of Finland, being right in its center, fifty kilometers from the Finnish coast and nothing but a strategic position, did not differ from the many picturesque islands off the very coast of Finland ... In short, already Koskinen's answer could be regarded as mocking ...

But certainly impudent in its unjustified arrogance was the official response of Helsinki, transmitted by Koskinen to Litvinov on March 8 ... - Mr.

Litvinov! Finn began. "We consider even the discussion on the lease of the islands to be incompatible with the policy of neutrality. We ask that your proposal not be made public, as this will excite public opinion in Finland... Litvinov, who was not very tactful in such situations

(and here I can only approve of him), grimaced with a look of obvious contempt, but said nothing. And the Finn was already talking about the Alands:

We are committed to protecting them! And such an assurance should be a sufficient guarantee for you.

The Finns could defend something from someone only on an equal footing. The real need for the protection of the Alands could arise when they were attempted to be occupied by England, Germany or the Soviet Union. And any option was losing in advance for the

Finns. And here - Koskinen was puffed up with arrogance in a completely "pig-headed" manner ... He also did not take our economic advances seriously - although we were going to benefit the Finns in advance, subject to their consent to the lease.

Litvinov, after listening to everything, answered as follows: "My government will be very disappointed." Your islands, you are a state, - here he made a significant pressure, - sovereign, you have the right to dispose of the islands as you wish ...

He paused, and then uttered the words as if in passing, but in meaning - the most

important: - It seems to me personally that it would even be possible to translate negotiations on the exchange of territories.

Litvinov looked at the Finnish envoy with a searching gaze, but he seemed not to hear or understand anything ... But he had to listen, because the people's commissar explained: - For

Finland, for example, it might be of interest to cede to it a corresponding part of our territory along the Karelian border, than barren islands. Finland has always been interested in the forest, which is abundant in Karelia... And I will return to the problem of the Aland Islands... And this was already a sounding not

by the secret emissary Yartsev, but by the head of the USSR Foreign Ministry! With the wise, and not the "pig-headed" policy of Helsinki, it was necessary to agree right there - I repeat, right there - to agree. And immediately - to the Finns themselves - to offer the transfer of the border from Leningrad to Vyborg ... After all, it was already clear - Russia is gradually increasing the volume of its most legitimate demands, and the reluctance of the Finns is already beginning to annoy

it ... But was it smart on the part of the Finns to annoy the "Russian bear"? IN

ESSENTIALLY, in the northern corner of Europe, something similar to what happened in its center on the same

days was repeated. The Germans offered the Poles to solve the urgent problem of Danzig in peace.

The Russians, on the other hand, offered the Finns to solve the urgent problem of ensuring the security of Leningrad and the northwestern "face" of Russia by peace ...

We know why the Poles were uncompromising.

But why were the Finns uncompromising in a much more unfavorable balance of power for them? Alas, the reasons

were sadly similar ... The hidden cockiness of the national character, the inability and unwillingness of the "intelligentsia" to really think and ...

And counting on the support of the "civilized" world... What the Finns - like the Poles - were especially incited by the Western "democracies"... The Finns, by the way, also

counted on the internal political weakness of the USSR. This was especially clearly manifested in their very stupid and arrogant (and therefore even more stupid!) propaganda against the Soviet troops during the "winter war" ... But this is so - by the way ... The Finns also behaved stupidly in trade negotiations

with Mikoyan, which began March 4 in Moscow. In 1927 our trade turnover reached 528 million Finnish marks, in 1938 only 153 million. In Moscow, the Finns offered us goods worth 450 million marks (nearly 9 million dollars), we agreed to 320 million. However, the Finns, firstly, were not inclined to increase their imports from the USSR, and secondly, they taxed our goods with duties four times higher than normal ... And on March 23, Helsinki completely withdrew its trade

delegation...

Yes, the West clearly wanted to have a Finnish "card" in the anti-Soviet "deck"...

But we wanted to bring the situation to its logical point... And on March 11, our plenipotentiary in Italy, Boris Stein, joined in the sounding. He was plenipotentiary in Finland in 1932-1934 and now "decided" – as he explained in a conversation with Juho Elias Erkko, who replaced Holsti – "to spend part of the vacation in Helsinki" ... Stein told the new

chief of the Finnish Foreign Ministry that he was aware of Litvinov's conversations with Koskinen, and the day before yesterday I had breakfast with the Finnish trade delegation ...

"But, Mr. Erkko, there is also the problem of the Alands. We are considering the possibility that one fine day these islands will be voluntarily or ... not voluntarily transferred to Germany and their fortification will be turned against us ... Erkko

made a protesting gesture, and Stein, not accepting it, continued:

"That is why we are so insistent both in your demand that you stop fortifying the Alands in violation of the convention of 1921, and in the request for the lease of a number of islands that already lie on the waterway to Leningrad and

Kronstadt. Stein took a breath and

summed up: - On the whole, there is a complex of three problems: Aland, trade relations and lease of islands in the Gulf of Finland...

- Mr. Stein, according to the Finnish constitution, the government does not have the right to raise questions before the Seimas about the rejection of even the smallest part of the Finnish territory ... This issue is not debatable ...

"I don't think so, Herr Erkko. Your constitution prohibits the simple cession of territory, but it does not prohibit the exchange of equivalent territories or long-term leases. What do you want in these islands, and in exchange you will receive a territory rich in high-grade forest! Forest, Mr. Erkko! Stein was

charming, persuasive, persuasive, and for a "vacationer" he was well prepared for the discussion, and Erkko had to lean a little, declaring that the matter was "delicate and Finnish pace takes time"... In addition, you need to consult with the military, and they will probably "give a negative opinion" ...

But where is the logic? Stein retorted. - If the military speaks out against it, then this will mean that the islands have military significance for you, and you claim the opposite.

"Well, anyway," the Finnish minister mumbled evasively, "I would like to meet you again right after talking with

military...

- Fine! I remind you that complete confidentiality is required. We literally know about these conversations

a counted number of people whose discreteness is beyond doubt ...

- ABOUT! Keeping the secret is in our common interest," Erkkö assured, and only then was he truly sincere. A day

later, Stein was talking to Tanner at the Ministry of Finance ... Everything was similar to what it was before, but Tanner thumped bluntly: - Why do you need

islands as observation posts? IN in case of war, you will occupy them on the first day anyway!

"It's not about war, but about peacetime, and just at this time they are of interest to us ..." "Well, there are many

interesting details in what you said, Mr. casually asked: - And what specific territorial compensation can we talk about?

- We have not specified this yet, waiting for your principled answer. If you agree, then give us your proposals and we are ready to discuss them at any time. On that they parted, and on March 15, Stein met again with

Erkkö... Then he talked again with Tanner and with someone else...

However, the final result of this quite official diplomatic sounding (Litvinov officially notified the Finns about the "Helsinki vacation" of the plenipotentiary and his powers) was the same as in the case of Yartsev. The Finns persisted,

and Stein said to Erkkö at parting: "Well, then ... The Finnish government closes the door to friendly negotiations, and this will undoubtedly affect the whole complex of relations ...

It was reflected ... On May 19, Molotov himself called Irie Koskinen...

It was about all the same Alands ... And just here the author will inform the reader in more detail that in January 39, the Finns, in agreement with the Swedes, sent a note to the countries participating in the Aland Convention of 21, which raised the question of changing Articles 6 and 7 of the Convention so that Finland and Sweden have the right to arm the islands. The USSR was not a party to the Convention, but was a member of the Council of the League of Nations, and a consensus in the Council was required to change the Convention.

Germany, by the way, was no longer a member of the League, but was a party to the Convention. So, one way or another, all the leading European powers were requested. But only the Soviet Union could be worried. The bases on the Alands did not save either the Swedes or the Finns - it was not for nothing that Tanner understood that in the event of a war, the USSR would occupy those islands from which they could threaten him. But in the event of war, it was too difficult for us to occupy Alands for us - there is a lot of trouble, the effect is small. It was easier to "saddle" the nearby Gogland.

But for the Germans or the Anglo-French, Aland would be an excellent base for operations against Russia. Especially if there were Finns and Balts in the block with them. And they could easily occupy them with or without the consent of the Finns. And they would already have at their disposal some kind of ready-made infrastructure on the islands ...

Molotov said on May 19: - The

USSR is interested in this issue no less, but more than Sweden. We have reason to believe that the weapons on the Aland Islands can be used primarily against the USSR. Koskinen tried to object, but Molotov asked:

"Actually, what are the nature and dimensions of these structures?" "I'm not familiar with the details, Mr. Prime Minister, but I'll ask ... Although," the Finn hesitated, "I'm not sure if my government will give an answer to questions that are purely military in nature ... This answer already contained the answer. The Finns could easily provide us with the most detailed data on the Alands, since they could not threaten us from them, and the Alands against the Finns were even less useful to us than they were against us. And Koskinen's answer indirectly confirmed that the Alands could well become a threat specifically to the Soviet Union. Molotov's conversation with the Finnish envoy on May 23 clarified nothing, except that the Finn had already officially

refused to receive information about the fortifications on the Alands ... But some clarifying information came on May 25 from Oslo. Our plenipotentiary Nikonov, at a dinner at the Norwegian Minister of Foreign

Affairs Kut, talked with the Commander of the Norwegian Naval Forces Disen, and he did not hide anything: - Oh, this issue was predetermined by London in April 1938 in

during the visit of Swedish Foreign Minister Sandler...

- It was unofficial! "But dear

Herre Nikonov, it is during unofficial visits that such small countries as ours learn about the important decisions of large countries for them ... The last phrase, however,

remains on the author's conscience - it was not in Nikonov's report. However, this very moment was present in political reality, although this was most often not talked about out loud ... Molotov did not ignore the situation around

the Alands in his report on May 31 at the session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, where he recalled that these islands belonged to Russia for more than a hundred years, and explained in detail our bewilderment about Finnish references to "military secrets" ... By the way, a week before the

speech of the Soviet Presovnarkom, the Norwegian admiral confessed to Nikonov in Oslo that the Swedish military themselves oppose the strengthening of the Alands, because this "enables Germany to directly threaten the capital Sweden and ... keep it under threat all the time"...

But London, as we remember, was not afraid of this ... Why? Was blind? Of course not! It's just that this area, which seems to be far from the main events, was potentially important for the plans of the

Golden Elite ... Germany uses the Alands - yes, not against the Swedes, but against of course, Russians are good!

Or maybe the bases on the Alands will be useful to England itself ... Maybe - against Germany, or maybe - against

Russia ... Yes, and the "Finnish" card was not superfluous in the "deck" of

the Golden Elite ... The trinity of our Baltic "neighbors" behaved NO MORE cleverly "... Estonia, closest to Finland, leaned towards the Germans quite definitely. On July 5, 1938, the German envoy in Tallinn, Frowein, after a conversation with the chief of staff of the Estonian army, reported to Berlin: ***"General Rack recognized that it would be very important that in the event of war Germany exercised control over the Baltic Sea. He further stated that Estonia could assist in this matter. For example, the Gulf of Finland could be very***

easily mined against Soviet warships without attracting any attention. There are also other options...

And on March 21, 1939, our plenipotentiary in Estonia, Nikitin, reported to Moscow: ***“German youth are being placed in the Narva Russian families to study the Russian language ... Three ocean-going ships with German youth are expected to enter Estonia in the summer ... A Japanese major from the mission in Riga was in Narva, inspected the border strip ... German colony in Tallinn***

emboldened...

The situation is very complicated, the gap between the government and the people is

big.” On May 4, Nikitin sent another cipher: ***“On May 3, a secret closed meeting on the international situation of the Estonian State Duma took place. Commander-in-Chief Laidoner stated in the sharpest form: “Estonia will never act together with the USSR against Germany” ...*** Of course, neutrality is

quite acceptable for a sovereign power, but, firstly, let's remember what General Karbyshev said about the Baltic “powers”. And secondly...

Secondly, there was no neutrality either... Nikitin further wrote: ***“One of these days a non-aggression pact will be concluded with Germany. As for the USSR, Laidoner said: “We will not conclude any pacts with him” ... ”***

A simple logical operation led to an unambiguous conclusion: bourgeois Estonia is quite ready to participate in the German aggression against the USSR...

In contrast to Estonia, Lithuania behaved more cautiously... Yes, it owned the primordially German Memel not by right, but by virtue of “Versailles” provocateurism. In 1920, the Entente seized the Memel region from East Prussia and took it under its control, and in 1923 transferred it to Lithuania. And Germany had all the natural rights to Memel, but returned it to itself in such an aggressive manner that the Lithuanians, willy-nilly, had to scratch their heads ... The poet Juozas

Baltrušaitis was not only a classic of Lithuanian literature, but also the envoy of Lithuania in Moscow ... and on March 29, 1939 he complained to Litvinov about Ribbentrop's rude behavior when

he demanded that the Lithuanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Urbshis sign an agreement on Memel ...

- Can you imagine, Ribbentrop said that if Urbshis is obstinate, then Kovno will be razed to the ground ... Like, for this everything ready..

Litvinov shook his head sympathetically, while Baltrushaitis complained further:

"Unrest reigns in Kovno and rumors are circulating about the possibility of Germany declaring a protectorate ... Litvinov agreed, but he could calmly suggest - but come back to Russia, gentlemen...

However, he did not offer this, and the Lithuanian "tops" would not agree to this ... Of course, then the future of Lithuanian Kaunas would be secured, but then the end of bourgeois Kovno would come ... This was unacceptable for those in power in Kovno-Kaunas. But I didn't want to go under the German hand either ...

Therefore, the Lithuanians were still more careful with us, and their new envoy Natkevicius, having arrived in Moscow, in a conversation with Molotov immediately expressed the hope that "in the future the USSR will treat Lithuania friendly" ... However, Kovno did not

refuse advances either Germans, and on April 5, the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry confidentially notified our Chargé d'Affaires ad interim Pozdnyakov that the commander of the Lithuanian army had accepted an invitation to travel to Germany for Hitler's birthday within a strictly protocol framework....

Together with him went General Reck from Estonia and the Minister of War of Latvia Balodis. On

the other hand, official Latvia did not intend to justify itself in any way... It was emphatically hostile to us. The author could give many examples of this, but better than our plenipotentiary in Riga Ivan Zotov did in an urgent cipher to Moscow,

do. And I'll

just quote it almost in full: ***Immediately on April***

17, 1939, the Latvian authorities

authorized the celebration of the so-called "day of the liberation of Riga from the Bolsheviks" by a German group of residents of Latvia. Extensive program on May 22 includes

holding evenings, meetings ... entertainment and ends with a general demonstration in Mežaparks ... Germans from Estonia and Lithuania are invited. A steamboat with a thousand Landwehr is expected to arrive from Germany ... I am informed from many sources that von der Goltz will come to the celebration (his troops overthrew Soviet power in Latvia in 1919. - S.K.). **Increasingly, young people in uniform appear, defiantly use the Hitler salute, affect Latvians and challenge them to disputes, quarrels and fights. The Germans scold the Latvians for the past and present... The Latvian people are extremely dissatisfied**

with the resolution of the festival - their opinion is: "We must celebrate the liberation from the Germans every day." The working people's sympathy for the USSR is growing every day. The foregoing gives the right to talk about extended legal fascist work against us. The Latvian government contributes to this, at the same time causing irreparable political damage to independence ... But the Latvians were not eager for the status of a

German protectorate, and when at the end of April the German military attache in Finland Ressing arrived in Riga from Helsinki, suggesting that the Latvian military think about this option they answered in the negative...

And in LONDON and in Paris, they stubbornly disagreed with our proposals on general guarantees to the Balts ... Actually, this chapter began with a conversation about this between our London plenipotentiary Maisky and Lord Halifax on June 8, 1939 ...

A strange "pride" was demonstrated by the last peaceful summer for Europe, those countries that owed their very "state" existence not to the centuries-old struggle for national freedom, but to a change in the balance of power of the major powers! Y-yes... What's the matter? Without mistake, it could

be

argued that

- in the calculations

Elite International...

Of course, the three Baltic "cards" did not have the same fateful character for the Golden Elite as they did for Pushkin's Hermann, but in the general anti-German and anti-Russian game they were completely in the "disposition" ...

In the end, the Baltic states at the hand of the Fuhrer could also become a springboard for Germany's strike on Russia. This is also why London and Paris did not agree to the Soviet proposal to give the Balts joint guarantees. Our guarantees, of course,

would mean, if necessary, the introduction of troops into the Baltic States ... Yes, this would strengthen the USSR, but it would strengthen the European world. Someone had to destroy it ... But, having entered the Baltic

states to guarantee its independence, Russia could go on a bloc with Germany and jointly force Poland to sound behavior in the part of Danzig and the regions seized from Russia ... And this would be for the Golden Elite it's really bad ...

Poland in such "pincers" could "surrender" everything and peacefully - including the Vilensk region annexed from Lithuania ... Well, yes ... An interesting, interesting game was played by the Baltic and

Scandinavian

"cards" in the spring and summer of 1939, my dear reader!

In those days, Norway, Sweden and Finland refused the Anglo-French guarantees, as well as the German proposal
conclude non-aggression pacts...

For Norway, this line was understandable - in the event of war, it was clearly threatened by occupation in one form or another. The only question was who would land first in Bergen, Trondheim, Narvik - the Germans or the British? Sweden could well count on

maintaining neutrality - in this capacity, it suited, in general, everyone - like Switzerland. But Finland... She refused the Anglo-French guarantees in the "group", but

she did not want the tripartite Anglo-French-Soviet guarantees so much that she even blackmailed London! Like, if the British agree with Moscow's idea of general guarantees to the Finns, then they will take the side of Germany... What's the matter? In hopes of the "Mannerheim Line"? Or in

hopes for the Washington line? It

seems that the calculation was for this and

that ... And some people understood this and even declared it publicly ...

On June 13, 1939, Pravda published a large editorial titled "The Question of Protecting the Three Baltic States from Aggression" ... Its style was quite Stalinist, which means that its authorship was also very likely.

One way or another, but the advanced analyzed the state of affairs very sensibly. There were also lines relating to "Baltic stubbornness." It was written about this

as follows: ***"Another explanation of the behavior of ... politicians in Estonia and Finland is possible. It is quite possible that we are dealing here with certain influences from outside, if not with direct inspiration... At present, it is difficult to say who exactly are the real inspirers here: aggressive states interested in disrupting the anti-aggressor front, or some reactionary circles of democratic states..."*** And there was also a link to an article by the right-wing French journalist Henri

de Kerillis in the newspaper Epoque ... The editor of Epoque, a right-wing deputy of parliament, Kerillis was not a member of the Communist Party, but he loved France and saw that things were not going well in the French Republic ... Therefore, he was worried, and wrote - oddly enough - the truth (that's why Pravda quoted him): ***"6 With regard to guarantees to the Baltic***

countries, the demands of the Soviet Union are absolutely legal and quite logical. If France and England enter into an agreement with the Soviet Union, they should be interested in ensuring that the Soviet Union does not suffer in the very first days of the war from German intervention through the territory of the Baltic countries ... If we want this alliance, we must do everything so that Germany does not settled in Riga, Tallinn and Helsinki, as well as on the Aland Islands. They point out that neither Finland, nor Estonia, nor Latvia wants Franco-Anglo Soviet guarantees. What the hell is this? If they do not want these guarantees, then this means that there are unnecessary reasons for concern. These Baltic countries, two of which are Lilliputian countries, are not able to ensure their independence on their own. And if they claim otherwise, it means that they have entered the German orbit. The Soviet Union wants to resist this ... "

On June 29, Pravda published an article by Politburo member Andrei Andreyevich Zhdanov. The secretary of the Central Committee wrote that the tripartite talks "reached a dead end" - including because of the refusal of the Anglo-French to give guarantees to the Balts ... It would

be more accurate to write that the negotiations never came out of dead end into which they were driven by the West even before they began ...

But a strange picture, I repeat once again, turned out to be: the West did not want to give guarantees, and the Balts did not want to take them ... Peace and security in Europe in 1939 turned out to be junk goods for both ... Why? What, did the people like the war

more? Hardly... But the interests of the peoples and the actions of their rulers (chosen, however, by the peoples themselves) are far from always the same thing... And if the rulers are connected with the Golden Elite, then these are always opposites - the peoples and those in power ...

And behind all the European pre-war "oddities" in the end, one country loomed - a distant, transatlantic ...

And SUDDENLY whole layers of combinations were blown up in one day - on August 23 ... On

September 1, a new explosion of many plans followed - already purely military ...

On September 17, Soviet tanks plowed through the blown up "layers" heading for Lvov and Baranovichi...

And on September 28, these "layers" were even more destroyed by the Soviet German Treaty of Friendship...

The Germans abandoned the Baltic sphere of influence - up to Lithuania, which received Vilnius from us, and the USSR sent its troops into the territory of the Baltic "Lilliputians" by virtue of new allied treaties with them ... As for Finland ... However, before talking about it ,

the author would like to

finish with these "Lilliputians" and acquaint the reader with the order of the People's Commissar of Defense of the USSR Klim Voroshilov No. 0163 of October 25, 1939. It had the title "On the behavior of the personnel of the military units of the Red Army located in

Latvia" and ordered the commander of the 2nd Special Rifle Corps, divisional commander Morozov and the commissar

Mareev to take all measures to ensure that the personnel do not interfere "in the ***internal affairs of the Republic of Latvia***" ...

It was ordered to explain that ***"our units are stationed and will live on the territory of a sovereign state, in whose political affairs and social system they have no right to interfere"*** - in order not to give a reason ***to "depict the entry of our units into Latvia as the beginning of its" Sovietization*** "...

People's Commissar ***" categorically"*** forbade ***"any meetings of our units, individual groups of military personnel or individuals, whether it be a chief or a Red Army soldier ... with workers and other Latvian organizations or organizing joint meetings, concerts, receptions,***

etc." It was ordered: ***"Not to have any conversations with any of the citizens of Latvia about life and order in the Soviet Union, about***

our Red Army " ... ***internal affairs of the Republic of Latvia, be regarded as playing into the hands of anti-Soviet provocateurs and the worst enemies of socialism, and severely punished.*** That's it... But with the FINNS it turned out badly - on October 5, 39, they were invited to Moscow for negotiations...

Molotov

himself invited him, who called Irie-Koskinen and said that the Soviet government would like to

exchange views with the Finnish government on some political issues. The People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs asked for an answer in the coming days ...

Two days later, Molotov called Koskinen again, and on October 8, our plenipotentiary Derevyansky called Foreign Minister Erkko and said: "Moscow is

literally buzzing with indignation, Mr. Minister!" We are surprised - the Baltic countries immediately accepted our invitations ... - I am not aware of their

behavior, Mr. Derevyansky ... - Look, but keep in mind that Comrade Molotov would like to see you personally in Moscow ... But Erkko did not go, saying to journalists:

- The place of the Minister of Foreign Affairs is in the government of the country ...

So, Erkkö was only invited to the table, but he didn't even want to put his feet on him ... And the Svindhuvuds were still offended by the involuntary incident with the Russian idiom!

On October 9, only State Councilor Juho Kusti Paasikivi, who had previously been ambassador to Sweden, went to Moscow ... Almost seventy years old, Paasikivi was a well-known figure in Finland, of course. In 1918 he was the President of the Senate, from 1914 to 1934 he was the General Director of the National Joint Stock Bank... But in current politics his status was low, and one detail in his past looked simply defiant towards us - Paasikivi led the Finnish delegation in negotiations with the RSFSR and signed in 1920 that Soviet-Finnish treaty, which established the border almost in the suburbs of St. Petersburg ... And this treaty left half of Lake Ladoga behind the Finns ... On October 12 at 17.00, negotiations began. From the Soviet side, they were led by Stalin and Molotov... But the Finns did not want to notice even this transparent hint... Molotov's deputy was sitting next to the Russian leaders

Potemkin and Derevyansky.

Next to Paasikivi - Koskinen, Colonel Paasonen and a certain Nykopp ... The

conversation immediately turned to territorial concessions on land and at sea, and the Finns immediately began to "pull the rubber" - they say, we need to communicate with Helsinki ...

And even after all this, the Finns just provided a memorandum from Colonel (a Finnish general for Stalin would have been too great an honor) Paasonen, who proved in no time that the Gulf of Finland was not in any danger ... Well, of course - where are such "morons" up

to the Finnish colonel, like the Russian Tsar Peter and a whole galaxy of Russian admirals and military engineers, who for more than two centuries strengthened the approaches to the "city of Petrov"! And what a "trifle" there is - the land border passed from him 32 kilometers (with the capabilities of long-range artillery up to sixty!).

And was it worth taking into account such a "trifle" as the fact that even Admiral Kolchak saw in Russian bases in the Baltic states and Finland a guarantee of the protection of the Russian capital ... And he notified the Paris "peace" conference

in 1919 about this. The second meeting on October 14 began at 16.30 and ended at 19.00...

Stalin was patient with the Finns, as with an unintelligent child ... He explained: -

No one is to blame for the fact that geography is the way it is. If the fairway to Leningrad had not passed by your coast, we would never have raised this issue ... - But Colonel

Paasonen in his memorandum ... - Your memorandum is one-sided and overly optimistic ... We must count on the worst ... Tsarist Russia had the fortresses of Porkkala and Naissaar with their twelve-inch artillery and naval base near Tallinn. And it was an impenetrable barrier. Paasikivi tried to object. But Stalin, anticipating the question, said: - We do not lay claim to

either Porkkala or Naissaar, since they are located too close to the capitals

of Finland and Estonia ... But another effective barrier can be created between Hanko and Paldiski ... Therefore, we need your peninsula for rent Hanko... We can even dig a canal on the isthmus, and Hanko will not be connected to mainland Finland...

Stalin here, firstly, gently, extremely tactfully reproached the Finns for their unwillingness to understand the simple fact that a great power cannot afford either itself or anyone such a state of affairs when its second capital is a stone's throw from someone else's border. Secondly, Stalin

demonstrated the absence of plans to annex Estonia... And then he continued

just as patiently: - According to the laws of maritime strategy, the passage to the Gulf of Finland must be blocked by crossfire of batteries from both sides. Your memorandum assumes that the enemy was unable to penetrate the bay, but if the enemy fleet is already in the bay, what then? Yudenich is already on us

attacked across the Gulf of Finland, the British also attacked ... The colonel stupidly inquired:

- But now who can attack you - England or Germany? Stalin looked at him too attentively, and extremely

politely replied:

- Who? Now we have good relations with Germany. But in this world, everything can change... In the current scenario, both Germany and England can send a large fleet to the bay... Both press on Sweden, wanting to have bases there, both are at war with each other. When the war between them is over, the victorious fleet will enter the bay.

Even Colonel Paasonen calmed down, listening to this deaf, the calm exhorting voice of a man, the "intelligent" salons whom of Helsinki were called "dictator" and "tyrant" ...

And the "tyrant" explained in detail: - You ask why we need Koivisto? I'll tell you why... I asked Ribbentrop why Germany went to war with Poland? And he replied: "We had to move the Polish border away from Berlin." But from Poznan to Berlin - two hundred kilometers, gentlemen! Stalin paused, then added: "Regarding Koivisto... If sixteen-inch guns are installed there, they stop any movement of our fleet across the waters of the bay."

We will later rename the city of Koivisto on the coast of the Gulf of Finland to Primorsk, but something else is interesting - in Ribbentrop's answer in Stalin's retelling there were no references to Danzig, and this was understandable ... If the Poles did not want to return German Danzig to the Germans, then what a cry would have risen at the whole "democratic" world, if Hitler before the war had publicly begun to demand the return to Germany of German - before 1919 - Posen? Stalin

did not threaten. However, the meaning of his words - accurate and verified, could tell the Finns that further great Russia does not intend to joke with her ungrateful former adopted "daughter" ... But she is ready to be generous with her ... And Stalin continued:

- We ask that the distance from Leningrad to the border line be at least seventy kilometers, and we

we will not reduce the requirement.

The Finns fidgeted, and a muffled voice under this creak informed them: - We cannot move Leningrad, which means we need to move the border line. We ask for 2,700 square kilometers and offer more than 5,500 square kilometers in return.

The Finns stopped fidgeting - here it is, **the word** is uttered, and a voice in the silence

asked: - What state would act in such a way? Finns

were silent, and the voice itself answered:

- There is no such state ...

What could be objected to this, dear reader, and after that? The great leader of a great country said everything ... But Paasikivi - yes, yes - did not remain silent embarrassedly, but again began to talk about the fact that no part of mainland Finland could be alienated ... They were already ready to go for the lease of several islands ... But then Potemkin had already answered

him: "Such concessions have taken place more than once in the past... Please, Russia sold Alaska to America, Spain ceded Gibraltar to England... He could add that most of the territory of the

United States was bought "by chance" and under pressure... about England, over which then "the sun never set", one could generally talk for hours ... In the evening of the same day, at 21.30, the Finns got out of their hands again

Stalin a written memorandum with Soviet proposals.

In short, we asked for a thirty-year lease on Hanko, the right to anchor in Lapokhya Bay, a concession with appropriate territorial compensation for the islands of Suursari, Lavensari, Big and Small Tyuters and Koivisto, as well as part of the Karelian Isthmus from the village of Lipola to the southern outskirts of the city of Koivisto, the western part of the Rybachy Peninsula - with a total area of 2671 square kilometers. . In return,

they conceded the Soviet territory near Repol and Pori Yarvi with a total area of 5529 square kilometers. In addition, they

proposed to destroy the fortified areas on both sides of the border, while agreeing to arm the Aland

islands, but without the participation of Sweden or any other foreign state.

Paasikivi, having read all this not without difficulty - although the former chief director of the State Treasury of the Grand Duchy of the Finnish Russian Empire could have known Russian better - shrugged his shoulders:

- These are all extremely

difficult questions ... And then Stalin could not stand it and with almost imperceptible mockery reassured : Actually, it's not

that scary. For Hitler, the border seemed close to Berlin, so he pushed it back as much as three hundred kilometers.

Paasikivi lowered his arrogance and

muttered, "We want to live in peace without conflict.

"That's impossible, Mr. Paasikivi. - But what

about your famous slogan: "We do not want foreign land not an inch, but we won't give up our own inch"? the Finn scoffed.

"I will answer you," Stalin said calmly. - In Poland, we returned ours ... And now we are talking about an exchange ... We are waiting for you back on the twentieth or twenty-first ...

"We'll sign an agreement on the twenty-first," picked up Molotov, - and the next day we will arrange a dinner on this occasion ...

And on October 15, Paasikivi left to return on the 23rd (and not the 21st) with Tanner ... And the Finns - despite the fact that Odessa Privoz was from them at the other end of Europe, began to bargain, especially since they were part of their delegation was the ex-president of the bank - Paasikivi, and the current finance minister

Tanner. But they were clearly told that our proposals were the minimum.

"There is no point in bargaining," Stalin said dryly. However an argument

began ... - Who are you afraid of? the Finns

asked. "We are not afraid of anyone, but a protracted world war is possible, aggressive actions by England and France are possible ... The British fleet has already entered the Civil War in Koivisto, and British torpedo boats have raided the harbor of Petrograd ...

"Now you and I have a 1932 non-aggression pact," Tanner objected. "He was imprisoned

under completely different circumstances," Molotov retorted. So several hours passed ... -

Perhaps you will once again consider our proposals for Hanko and the isthmus? - once again suggested Stalin.

- They are unacceptable ... Actually, there is nothing more to talk about, and we'd like to take our leave," Tanner snapped.

Molotov was surprised: -

So you intend to provoke a conflict? Paasikivi passionately replied:

- We are not. But you, it seems, yes ... Stalin no longer persuaded and argued ... He stood and silently smiled ... And yet it was still not a conflict ... In the evening, the Finns were again invited to Stalin's Kremlin office, and at 23.00 they were again received there by Stalin and Molotov .

- We are ready to slightly reduce our requirements, but the final Koivisto remains a point on the frontier," Molotov said.

"We need to get in touch with Helsinki," he started his usual "bagpipe" Paasikivi... - Get in touch... The Finns

went to the embassy, and there Paasikivi the next morning after a sleepless night blessed himself and Tanner with a "discovery"... And even two - geographical and political. "For twenty years we have lived in

illusion," he told Tanner. - Our geographical position connects us with Russia ... If the war breaks out, we will lose it, and the results will be much worse than we can achieve now. And the contagion of Bolshevism will spread throughout Finland...

- What are you offering? -

We need to contact Sweden ...

Paasikivi's answer - like, in fact, everything reported by the author earlier - is documented. And it turned out that Paasikivi intended to involve the Swedes into the world of illusions as well ... We will see what the Finns got out of this ...

On October 26, the Finns - having decided nothing in Moscow - returned home. And then parliamentary and other debates began ... Time passed ... And Tanner again gathered in Moscow - having overstayed the mutually agreed

terms ... And then on November 1, already on the train, he learned that Molotov in a public speech announced both the Soviet proposals of Finland and the Soviet assessment Finland's behavior...

Moscow was in a hurry itself and decided to publicly push the Finns... Here, too,

a situation similar to the Polish one was repeated - the weather did not work for us, and we had to hurry... We dragged it all out anyway, hoping that the Finns had common sense - in contrast from

Poles - should be enough ...

Alas, everything was different ... Firstly, Tanner regarded our step as "incorrect." But, if you think about it, what was unacceptable or unworthy here? On the contrary, having made public our demands to the Finns, we proved by this our confidence in our innocence ... The Finns,

having "graciously" reached Moscow, retreated more and more, but not reaching the line that the USSR defined as the minimum. And the Koivisto line was the minimum...

I must say right away that according to the agreement of March 12, 1940 - after breaking both the "Mannerheim Line" and the "Roosevelt Line" - Churchill - the border passed about 50 kilometers further - not to Koivisto, but already to Vyborg. But after all, this was already after breaking all the "lines", when Stalin no longer had the need to make excursions into military history for the Finnish colonels ...

And in 1939, the whole beginning of November passed in our attempts not to bring to the last argument - a cannon ... But the Finns did not concede even on the question of Hanko, although it was clear that Hanko was one of those possible "castles" on which Russia could close Gulf of Finland for the enemy. On

November 9, Stalin showed a dot on the map: "Perhaps you will at least cede the island of

Roussar? - No. "Then it looks like nothing will come of it," Stalin sighed. "Nothing will come out..."

Surprisingly, the Finns themselves thought the same way. And even before receiving a response from Helsinki, they prepared a letter addressed to Molotov, which Tanner considered "polite", and I would call unreasonably arrogant. Even the traditional final "compliment" of the letter looked rather dry. However, let the reader judge for himself.

***“Mr. Chairman, In view of the fact
that in our negotiations
with you and Mr. Stalin it was not possible to find the basis for the
agreement proposed between the Soviet Union and Finland, we
considered it expedient to return to Helsinki this evening.***

***Bringing the foregoing to your attention and expressing our sincere
thanks for all the courtesy shown to us, we express the hope that the
negotiations in the future may lead to a result satisfactory to both
parties. Please accept, Sir, the assurances of***

our highest consideration. Yu. K. Paasikivi, V. Tanner. The letter was dated

November 13—which was somewhat odd. The Finns could spend another day in Moscow and not be bound by dark symbols...

However, the letter was dated the 13th, and on the same Monday, November 13, the superstitious Finns for some reason (?) showed fearlessness in this matter as well - at 21.30 the Finnish delegation left for Helsinki ...

It's time to say that Marshal Mannerheim, as a former Russian subject, as a former general of the tsarist army and a smart military man, agreed with many of our doubts and recommended that civilian politicians give in as much as possible. And this limit could just be the "Mannerheim line". Then, of course, the Finns would have to abandon the foreground of its fortified areas, that is, from kilometers of forest blockages braided with barbed wire, stationary buried land mines, anti-tank ditches, granite and concrete gouges and other "charms" in the form of machine-gun nests, trenches and dugouts ... But we somehow got through this foreground in a week and a half and only ran into the line itself - really impassable so easily ...

That is, even Mannerheim understood that he had to give in ... But if he hoped for the line of his name, then politicians in civilian clothes also hoped for the “Roosevelt line” ...

Chapter

11 Finnish Cuckoos, General Staff Crows, and Atlantic Hawks

YES, the FINNISH problem had to be solved quickly - not only was winter coming and the hostilities immediately became more complicated, primarily for us ... The "political" time was also running out ... The situation was favorable for the USSR today. And tomorrow?

Today Germany is bound in the west and officially friendly to us. And tomorrow? Stalin

understood and knew better than many that powerful forces outside and inside Germany could well ensure such a turn in the world situation when Germany and England - with France and Finland in the tie - together go to the USSR. And they will go - including - through Finland ...

And after all, those led by non-national, albeit greedy, interests will go. They will go in the interests of supranational forces on both sides of the Atlantic ...

For example, if Elser's assassination attempt or Beck's conspiracy had succeeded, or if the intrigue of the former mayor of Leipzig, and by the end of the thirties, adviser to the Stuttgart concern Bosch AG, Karl Friedrich Goerdeler, had been developed and logically completed, Hitler would have been overthrown. And Germany would quickly be returned to the Gold Standard system, both narrowly financially and broadly.

political sense...

And such a Germany would immediately be connected to the rapid actions against the USSR of the broad anti-Soviet front of the Golden Elite ... After all,

the Elite also had to hurry - until the USSR completed the fourth five-year plan and rearmed. And in the Soviet Union

in that autumn of 1939 there were a lot of things to do, and most of them related to a peaceful and creative life ... But those smelling of gunpowder were also woven into peaceful chores - at least potentially ...

In Europe, the Wehrmacht fought on the Vistula, and on September 13, Stalin summoned to Moscow the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the CP (b) of Belarus Panteleimon Kondratievich Ponomarenko and the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars of Belarus Kuzma Venediktovich Kiselev.

They thought that there was a need for some kind of economic report: in Minsk they started to swing at an artificial lake - it was tight with water in the city. However, funds were needed, and the Allied People's Commissar for Finance, Zverev, was stingy ... There were other urgent

matters ... In the reception room, Stalin's personal secretary Poskrebyshev, in a gray carpeted tunic, habitually cracked down on telephones - rarely calling himself, but now and then answering calls.

Soon the Belarusians were invited to the office, and their Ukrainian colleagues Khrushchev and Korniets followed them there... Voroshilov was also in the

office. Stalin began a meeting on the introduction of troops into the western Belarusian and Ukrainian lands. Kiselev was sitting, either on pins and needles, or on wings ... What had been desired for almost twenty years was being done!

The discussion took a little more than an hour, and then Stalin took everyone to the dacha

to have lunch ... The owner was friendly and caring, he sat the embarrassed Kovalev next to him and asked questions. At only 35 years of age of the Belarusian "premier" Stalin could call him paternally just Kuzma, but he was emphatically polite. However, he asked questions not out of politeness, but in fact ...

Stalin himself told ... He also told about the war with White Poles, when they had to fight in the Belarusian regions.

And in the early morning of September 17, Kuzma Kovalev was already riding along with the advancing units of Eremenko's cavalry corps forward - to Nesvizh, Baranovichi, Volkovysk and further - to Grodno ...

Stalin, on the other hand, had other problems - on the other side of the country ... And I really wanted to solve them in the north-west as bloodlessly as they managed to do in the south-west ... On November

7, the Finns were still in Moscow, and they were invited to a military parade . Paasikivi refused, Tanner went and the whole parade politely refused the offers of the American Ambassador Lawrence Steingart to take a sip from his flask of cognac, to which the ambassador himself

often applied, grumbling about outdated weapons - which was clearly not true. But a thoughtful analysis of the

holiday order No. 199 dated November 7 on the day of the 22nd anniversary of the October Revolution of People's Commissar Voroshilov could give the Finns even greater opportunities for reflection than Russian tanks on Moscow paving stones ...

The year 1939 was coming to an end, in which the main efforts and successes of the Red Army fell on Khalkhin Gol. However, this conflict was mentioned in one paragraph. On the other hand, a lot of space was devoted to the description of the "liberation campaign", and no less space was occupied by an assessment of the situation in the Baltic states. Not a word was said about Finland, but the People's Commissar quoted Stalin: ***"We stand for peaceful, close and good neighborly relations with all neighboring countries that have a common border with the USSR ... and we will stand on this position, since these countries will maintain the same relations with The Soviet Union, since they will not try to violate, directly or indirectly, the interests of the integrity and inviolability of the borders of the Soviet state "...*** This was said for the

Finns, but they did not heed the voice of the USSR and Stalin. And now the conversation with them was to be carried on by our soldiers ... IN

THE ORDER of the People's Commissar of Defense of the USSR No. 199, it was also said about Germany, about England and France...

"The treaty of friendship and border between the USSR and Germany is in the best possible way meets the interests of the peoples of the two largest states of Europe. It is built on a solid foundation of mutual interests between the Soviet Union and Germany, and this is its mighty strength. This treaty was a turning point not only in relations between the two great powers, but it could not but have a most significant impact on the entire international

position...

The European war, in which England and France act as its instigators and zealous successors, has not yet flared into a raging conflagration, but the Anglo-French aggressors, not showing the will for peace, are doing everything to intensify the war, to spread it to other countries ... "

Not a word was said about Finland in the order, but it was precisely before the Soviet-Finnish war that there was less than a month left. And it was not only our desire to ensure the security of the borders from this side, and not only the desire of the Golden International not to allow us to do this, but also the mood within Finland itself. After all, there the propagandists of the idea of "Greater Finland from the Gulf of Bothnia to the White Sea and Lake Ilmen" were not put in either the "yellow" or the arrest house.

The Russian lake Ilmen, on the shore of which the Russian Veliky Novgorod stands, had, of course, a name of Finnish origin, meaning "the lake that makes the weather." However, a simple glance at the map showed that it lies almost two hundred kilometers southeast of Leningrad.

And even Svinhufvud, Erkkö, Tanner, Mannerheim, Paasikivi and the "philosophers" from the "Rotonda" were allowed to look at Ilmen in Finland ... Why, "Rotonda"!

Already in the 30s, official, state Finnish military plans provided for the possibility of an offensive deep into Russia ... Well, yes ... However, in the north of Europe, it was by no means
the

heirs of the Kalevala heroes who made the geopolitical weather now, and it was required to understand the existing historical-paranoid conflict through urgent "surgical intervention" of the heirs of the heroes of Russian epics ... DIRECTLY before the war, there was that famous artillery shelling of the

Soviet garrison in the town of Mainila at 15:45 on November 25, which then some considered the starting point of events. But the first Finnish "no" in response to the Soviet proposal to move the border from Leningrad to a sufficient distance had to be considered the real point. However, we will not ignore this shelling, my dear reader. Different things were said about him later, but, of

course, the Finns themselves fired - everyone in the country prepared for war with the Russians, and someone, it seems, could not stand it ... On the same day, Molotov handed Irie-Koskinen a note demanding "immediately

withdraw your **troops away from**

borders on the Karelian Isthmus - for 25-30 kilometers "...

Only three days later, the Finns replied that sound-measurement calculations prove that the shots were fired from the Soviet side, that **"in the immediate vicinity of the border, mainly (? - S.K.) border troops are located ..."** and that **"guns of such a range that their shells fell on the other side of the border, there were none at all in this zone ..."** At first glance, all this

sounded, perhaps, convincingly,

But...

But then the Finns agreed **to "start negotiations on the issue of mutual withdrawal of troops" ...** However, if the Finns did not have field troops in "this zone", then what were they going to withdraw?

Further, the Finns themselves reported in their own note that **"the village of Mainila is located at a distance of 800 meters from the border, behind an open field."** And at the same time, they did not deny the presence "in this zone" of artillery as such, but only the presence of guns of such range "so that their shells lay on the other side of the border" ... It turned out that the Finns had some guns "in this zone " nevertheless were ... However, what kind of guns were these, whose range did not exceed a kilometer (Mainila was even closer to the border)?

And in general, it was not clear why the Finnish border guards suddenly took up sound measurements, if the shots were fired by the Russians on the Russian side and at the Russian object. All this very much looked like a desire to make excuses in hindsight, if not to the Russians (we knew the truth for sure), then to "world public opinion" ... Yes, the Finns did not make

ends meet. And they did not agree, especially since as a result of the shelling, after seven shots, four of our soldiers were killed and nine wounded. Could this be the result of some special action on our part? Of course not! Not a single country in the

world will go for such an idiotic option of provoking a war simply because it is impossible to hide it, and one rumor about such a thing will have such a corrupting effect on the troops that it is better to come up with something smarter ...

Moreover, the village of Mainila was located behind an open field, and if the shelling had been organized by us to create a casus belli - a pretext for war, then it would be quite enough to plant a couple of

shells into this **"open field"**, and that's the end of it - you can write a note - they say, you fired at our territory ...

The ends did not meet, and because the proposal for a "mutual withdrawal of troops" sounded very mockingly. Behind the Finns were tens of kilometers of desert territory, where the landscape was enlivened only by wire fences ... And our troops, having retreated thirty kilometers, would find themselves almost on Nevsky Prospekt (there is no talk about the fleet at all - the sea border passed immediately behind the outer roadstead of the Leningrad port). By the way, this unequal situation was also mentioned in the note of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

There was one more thing ... As it became clear later, the Finns did not think that the situation was so acute that the Russians were already uncovering the tanks ... The Finns - like us, of course - knew exactly who actually said "Fire!" November 26th. But if the Finns knew that this was the work of our hands, then, on the contrary, they would have to understand that the Russians are creating a formal final pretext and will begin soon ... Their **relative** calmness was

precisely explained by their unconditional self-confidence ... Well, they messed up ... Well, What! After all, the Finns did not keep reservists or pacifists in the advanced units - it was on this "edge" that the enthusiasts of "Finland to Ilmen" served ... Once upon a time, it was necessary to start a trip to this lake on Russian soil, but - with a Finnish name, I before that, he was silent, but it's time to inform the reader that the Finns

announced a general mobilization on October 12 - when Paasikivi was in Moscow and assured Stalin of the loyalty of the Finns. And at the same time, the civilian population from the cities began to be evacuated to the countryside.

terrain.

No. The "tops" of Finland were not afraid of war. Moreover, in their self-confidence, they expected to become just a skirmisher in the big crusade of the West against the Russians ... After all, they were strongly incited to do so - what will be said later ... No, the Finns did not make

ends meet in the Maynil incident - even taking into account the fact that that they proposed a joint investigation of the incident... After all, even if this investigation began, none of the parties could give unequivocal,

incriminating evidence on the other side. And the puffs of time worked for the Finns ... Another thing

is that the war was a matter for the USSR for the USSR, and would have been declared to Finland one way or another soon. After November 26, the troops of the Leningrad Military District were instructed to be ready in a week for a counterattack. Someone, but the

Finnish "tops" could not help but understand this ... Although ...
After

all, even after November 29, Molotov announced on the radio that our representatives were recalled from Finland, even after November 30, the troops of the Leningrad Military District received combat orders, we once again offered the Finns to settle the matter amicably - but, of course, on our terms.

Instead, the Finns refused and declared war on us ... The initial weekly period given for preparation had to be reduced, because the Finns began to send sabotage groups into our territory. In this business they were skilled. And nearby was Leningrad. So, the cannons thundered, the firing shaft went towards the

fortifications of the Karelian Isthmus, in order to temporarily break against it by December 12 ... In OUR "Finnish" actions, only one political "puncture" turned out ...

And, perhaps, stupid - already on December 1, the Finnish Democratic republic headed by the secretary of the executive committee of the Comintern, Otto Kuusinen. Here Stalin, perhaps, hastened. But in real time, even this factor could not be superfluous ... In Helsinki, they should

have understood that we are now more than determined - right up to the implementation of a variant of some now socialist "Grand Duchy of Finland" from Karelia to Bothnia

gulf...

It is unlikely that Stalin seriously counted on this, but now - with Kuusinen signed a "treaty" of friendship ... Although ...

Although one political parody of history was worth another parody, which Leopold Emery mentioned in his notes as follows: "The League of Nations showed the last pitiful sign of life, withdrawing Russia from its membership."

It happened in the following way... On December 3, Finland's permanent delegate to the League of Nations, Rudolf Holsti, handed over a letter to the Secretary General of the League, Avenol, accusing the USSR of a surprise attack on Finland.

"Democratic" procedures began... On December 4, Molotov replied to Avenol's request that the USSR would only deal with the Kuusinen government. And then ... But first - about the events a few

days

before "and then ..." On November 29 - we note, even before the outbreak of hostilities - Avenol met in Paris with US Ambassador William Bullitt - we are also well acquainted ... On the sidelines of the League, Bullitt was considered trusted the face of the general secretary,

and how could it be otherwise ... Unless their position could be rearranged - after all, "brother" Bullitt was a confidant of the Golden Elite itself!

So, the direct influence of the United States went into action, and everything began to spin - although not as quickly as we would like ... The Finns complained, Avenol - heeded, and then ...

And then the representative of sultry Argentina Pardo ardently stood up for the sons of the Finnish cold rocks ... December 5 he submitted a protest to the secretariat of the League, declaring that the USSR had violated the principles of international law, and proposed that he be expelled from the League unconditionally. Well, still - it was so good in the League with People's Commissar Litvinov! He was so concerned about "collective security" for the West, he was so friendly with the United States ... But People's Commissar Molotov, in response to the exhortations of President Roosevelt, advised the latter to take care of the independence of the Philippines ... And then ... And then they joined Pardo in his

denunciation of the "shameless" Soviets the governments of Uruguay and Venezuela ... And in the USA they conducted another survey of

"public opinion", and 88 percent of those surveyed answered that they were on the side of Finland, and only 1 (one) percent expressed sympathy for Russia ...

And the Yankees immediately announced a "moral embargo" on trade with the USSR.

The situation has revived...

On December 12, our People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs received a telegram from de Matt, the chairman of the fresh Committee of the Assembly of the League

of Nations on the Finnish question. De Matte—contrary to the Russian interpretation of his name—very graciously suggested that the USSR "stop hostilities and, through the Assembly, begin negotiations to restore peace."

De Matte - also very kindly - was not answered ... And

on December 14, the Council of the League decided to recognize that "the Soviet Union, by its actions, placed itself outside the League of Nations ..."

29 countries out of 52 participating countries voted for the exception. 12 countries did not send their representatives to the assembly at all, and 11 did not vote for the exclusion. And among them are the Scandinavian countries: Sweden, Norway and Denmark ... The delegate of Sweden, Houdin, on behalf of all three, announced his non-alignment with the sanctions against the USSR.

In other words, the Scandinavians, separated from the USSR by Finland, did not support the Finns at all - they were very clearly wrong in their conflict with us ... And this, I must say, despite the fact that Russians were not particularly liked in Sweden. We quickly forget what should not be forgotten, but in Europe they often remember what should have been forgotten long ago. And the Swedes remembered both their collapse near Poltava - when they went to Moscow, but never reached, and that ice campaign of Peter's grenadiers and Cossacks, who almost reached Stockholm on the ice ...

And yet, the Swedes - unlike the Finns - have common sense and enough political sobriety. We will see this later...

AND ON THE BORDER OF THE USSR and the newly formed Polish General Governorate, there was also a conflict - already between the German and the Soviet military...

Colonel General Keitel reported this to the State Secretary of the Aussamt, Weizsäcker. And he, in his memorandum of December 5, 1939, in turn reported to the leadership of the German Foreign Ministry: ***"Recently, an altercation took place on the border of Russia and the Governor-General, in which the army also participated. The expulsion of Jews to Russian territory did not proceed as smoothly as was probably expected. In fact, the practice was, for example, as follows: in a quiet place in the forest, a thousand Jews were expelled for Russian***

border; 15 kilometers from this place, they again returned to the border with a Russian officer who tried to force the German officer to take them back "...

The situation was tragicomic - no one needed new citizens from among the "most talented in the world" people ...

Yes, the "chosen people" who lived in clover in Poland, the "chosen people" in the general government, now lived badly. But for some reason, accompanied by Wehrmacht officials, he broke through the "totalitarian" Russian border, and not into "democratic", say, Lithuania, and from there into Western democracies. Probably, he would have been allowed to sail by sea across Danzig across the ocean - if they would have been ready to receive him there ... But here - only the Russian Ivan had to accept uninvited "chosen ones" of Polish origin from the Germans - albeit with a scandal ... As if in Russia There were fewer "chosen ones" than in America... At that time, much was mixed in Europe into

one thing - tragedy and farce, sober calculation and blind malice... And to all this were mixed thoughts of many about Russia... On December 10, 1939, Eugene, already familiar to us

Vasilyevich Sablin wrote to Ariadna Vladimirovna Tyrkova-Williams from London to London... He defined a letter as a kind of confession in writing, and it was such...

The author cannot give it in full, but I would like to - there was so much sincere love for the Motherland in this confession, which Sablin did not really know because of his service in the diplomatic department - as he himself admitted to it ...

Far from believing in socialism, Sablin, nevertheless, wrote: ***"Ten years ago I ... asked my compatriots to continue to consider Russia their fatherland, to call it by its own historical name, and not the Soviet of Deputies, etc. ... I argued ... that the Red The army consists of the same Russian peasants and that Russia continues to exist ... The assertions that Russia has disappeared ... were just as absurd as the assertions that the revolution in Russia was created as a result of a Jewish conspiracy and that now it is ruled by all the same Jews ... When they exclaim that it was not Russia, but the USSR that entered Poland and the Baltic states, then for me this literary device ... is nothing more than a play on words ... Who really***

entered Poland and the Baltic States? After all, they are not Persians and not Guatemalans. The Russians returned there, but this time they were led not by the same authorities that we would like them to be led by ... "It was then fashionable among Russian white émigrés to gloat about the "Finnish" difficulties of the USSR, and Sablin wrote: **"Those conversations are simply physically unbearable to me among compatriots in whom there is a desire to arrange some kind of coalition against Russia. Even some kind of leagues are arranged, inciting and inciting democratic allies to reconcile with Hitler and suggesting some kind of crusade with Hitler against the USSR ...**

" Sablin did not see everything that happened to Russia and the world in the right perspective, but patriotism is a good compass , and the main thing

at that moment Sablin caught. And therefore, at the end of the letter, he wrote: **"It is possible that in the end a coalition will be created against Russia, declaring it enemy number one. But at this moment, dear Ariadna Vladimirovna, we are with you, if we have to be alive, we will cry bitterly ... What will happen to us when foreign aircraft begin to destroy Peter's creation ... Do not forget that during the conference in Versailles, the Finns circulated a brochure in which they argued that Petersburg should have belonged to them and the whole north of Russia almost to the Urals ... "Black huts here an**

THAT is how those who wanted peace and power for Russia, not wanting an alliance of "democracies" and Hitler against Russia, looked at the

matter... And those who wanted otherwise thought differently and acted differently. And the French agency "Gavas" at the end of November reported on "Stalin's speech in the Politburo on August 19" ... The General Secretary of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks was credited with the idea that "the war should continue as long as possible in order to exhaust the belligerents" ...

Just on November 30, Stalin sent his answer to the editors of Pravda: **"This report of the Havas agency, like many of its other messages, is a lie. I, of course, cannot know in which cafe this lie was fabricated. But no matter how the gentlemen of the Havas agency lie, they cannot deny that:**

a) not Germany attacked France and England, but France and England attacked Germany, taking responsibility for the current

war;

b) after the opening of hostilities, Germany turned to France and England with peace proposals, and the Soviet Union openly supported Germany's peace proposals, because it believed and continues to believe that a speedy end to the war would fundamentally ease the situation of all countries and peoples; c) the ruling circles of England and France rudely rejected both the peace proposals of Germany and the attempts of the Soviet Union to achieve a speedy end to the war. These are the facts ... " FROM

THE BEGINNING

of the " winter war "the facts of a very different nature

started multiplying and multiplying...

The Germans took a position, in principle, friendly to us ... True, even before the start of the conflict, they undertook to supply the Finns with 20-millimeter anti-aircraft guns and supplied fifty of them - until the Swedish press reported about it - as a sensation. The Germans went towards the Finns and in some other way - they allowed, for example, the transit of Italian aircraft to Finland ...

However, the Germans could be understood - the Finns were large suppliers to Germany of copper, and nickel ...

On the other hand, the Germans very decisively supported us politically and diplomatically... Already on December 2, a telegram signed by Weizsäcker left the Ausamt for German missions abroad with instructions to avoid the "anti-Russian tone" in conversations on the topic of the conflict that had begun.

"Depending

on who you are talking to," Berlin instructed, **" the following arguments can be used by you. The inevitable development of events towards the revision of the treaties concluded after the First World War. The natural need of Russia to strengthen the security of Leningrad and the entrance to the Gulf of Finland ... "** The Germans, who themselves suffered a lot from Versailles, could

understand us - and understood - correctly. After all, it is obvious that the provocative border near the walls of St. Petersburg was imposed on us in 1920 under the threat of a new intervention - perhaps with the help of England, and possibly Germany. The Germans in 1918 helped the White Finns to suppress Soviet power in the country, so they already knew what they were writing ...

And then Weizsäcker was also accurate:

“Wide sections of the population of Finland adhere to the economic and ideological orientation towards democratic England ... The platonic sympathies of England confirmed Finland in its former position and did not bring anything good to the country.” On December 8 and 9, the entire press of the Reich

published the article "Germany and the Finnish Question." Apparently, the Fuhrer himself was its author. And in it about Finland - in relation to its policy towards the League of Nations - it spoke in very "northern" tones. It would be naive to expect, it was said there, that Germany would support those small countries that were disloyal to her ... Soon, however, the Fuhrer ordered to stop any military

deliveries to Finland in general.

And even before that, on December 6, by cipher telegram No. 1003, Weizsäcker informed the ambassadors of the Reich and additional instructions. It is perhaps worth quoting it almost in its entirety, because in a concise form it gave an almost complete analysis of what was

happening: ***“Just a week ago, Finland was almost ready to come to an understanding with Russia, which could be achieved thanks to the prudent policy of the Finns ...***

There is no doubt that British influence on the Finnish government... forced the Finnish government to reject the Russian offer, which led to the real conflict. Particular emphasis should be placed on the fault of the British in the Russo-Finnish conflict. Germany is not involved in these events. In your conversations, sympathy for the Russian point of view should be expressed. Everything was right here - back on September 27, 1939,

England advised the Finns "to resist pressure from the East." A complete assessment of the German amount would be if the words

“overseas” were added to the words “British influence” ... And “brother” Bullitt was a clear proof of the need for such an addition.

The “democratic” press of “the whole world” played the role of forward-based forces...

The Duce suddenly bucked up ... Not participating in the war with France and England, he decided to take part in the war with the USSR on the side of Finland and wanted to incite the Fuhrer into this matter ...

It could hardly have happened without the hidden influences of the Golden International - it was a very tempting plan. And the Duce was chosen - obviously "in the dark" - as a means of probing. Playing in the right

direction on the pride of Mussolini was at that time a matter of technology ... Already when there were strong military successes of the Wehrmacht in Poland, the Duce, who chose "non-participation", with envy said to his wife:

- The Russo-German pact makes Germany invincible for any other power or coalition of powers...

He was 100% accurate here - that's why the friendliness of the two countries was dangerous for the "Atlantists"...

And for some reason, the Duce decided to play along with them and shake the firm position of the Reich with the help of the "Finnish" factor ... Italian planes went to the Finns, volunteers were recruited to the Finnish front in Italy. On December 1, the chief of the Italian General Staff, Mario Roatta, proposed to the German military apache "to unite Europe to fight Bolshevism." Roatta was a scout, and this automatically assumed his wide international

contacts.

In all the "Finnish" activity of Rome, Mussolini's temperament was visible, but by no means his ability to always think soberly ... In addition, there were always enough around him who were able to successfully inflame the Duce's bile against the Reich, which was successful in the external arena - unlike Italy, and against his new "red" partner. Later, on January 3, 1940, the Duce would send a sharp

letter to Hitler, where he would write: ***"No one knows better than me, who has a forty-year-old***

political experience that any policy, and especially revolutionary politics, ... requires tactical measures. In 1924 I recognized the Soviets. In 1934, I signed an agreement on trade and friendship with them ... But I, a born revolutionary who does

not change his revolutionary spirit, want to tell you that you cannot constantly

sacrifice the principles of your revolutionary thinking for the sake of momentary tactical demands ... Any further step towards improving relations with Moscow can create a terrible situation that will force Italy, where the unity of the anti-Bolshevik forces is absolute and invincible, to take a certain position on this issue ... Only in Russia, and nowhere else, you will find a solution to the

question of your living space... The day you destroy Bolshevism, we will fulfill our duty to our two revolutions. Then it will be the turn of the great democracies..."

The obvious hostility towards the USSR that was expressed in the letter had, in fact, not only - but taking into account the past - and not so much an ideological basis. The Duce long ago and quite officially proclaimed the thesis about the impossibility of de reconciliation with those countries that advocated sanctions against Italy during the Abyssinian war. And the USSR, through the efforts of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs Meer-Litvinov, then brought the Duce with his position into a uniform frenzy!

And "red" Russia irritated him since then not only as an anti-communist, but also in the same way that a red rag irritates an angry bull - simply by the very fact of its presence in front of eyes...

Emotions are emotions, but for all that, Mussolini was clearly losing his sense of the real, especially in foreign policy. Having received the letter, Hitler studied it in the most attentive way and consulted for a long time with Ribbentrop, with the military - Halder noted this in his notes for January 11. But the outcome of the discussions was, in contrast to the mood of the Duce, quite realistic ... - Italy will help us when

we are almost victorious, - said the Fuhrer. "Yes, and her neutrality pushed England

to war," he added.

Ribbentrop.

And in tactical terms, Italy, if it was not put an end to, then its Fuhrer did not take into account yet DECEMBER

21, 1939 Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin turned sixty years old. Of course, they congratulated him ... An exhibition dedicated to the anniversary opened in Moscow, but its title was very characteristic of the style of the hero of the day - "Stalin and the people of the Soviet

countries". Not just, say, "Stalin is the leader" or "The Life of a Genius", but Stalin and the people. Stalin and country...

And what is interesting and also indicative - at the exhibition, the "leader", depicted in paintings and graphic sheets, was by no means dazzled in the eyes ...

The Supreme Soviet of the USSR Kovardak and pilots Grizodubova, polar explorer Papanin and striker Samsonov, writer Leonov and chairman of the district executive committee of the Tajik SSR Avezov, academician Tsitsin and violinist Lisa Gilels, red Cossack commander Zubov and noble textile workers Dusi and Marusya Vinogradovs ...

Hundreds of names and portraits, and among them - rare portraits or paintings where Stalin himself was present - directly. But invisibly he was, of course, in the fate of each of the heroes of the exhibition ...

Perhaps not everyone understood this clearly and not everyone necessarily loved him, but he was firmly embedded in their destinies. Such was his role in

the fate of Russia ... On December 22, the catalog of the exhibition was put into print with an introductory article by a certain I. S. Rabinovich, and in it the name of Stalin was full of every page ... with a circulation of three thousand, Stalin himself, but if he kept it, he probably swore ... And how could he

restrain himself ... And on

December 23, Pravda published two

congratulatory messages...

The first one looked

like this: **TO MR JOSEPH STALIN MOSCOW**

On your sixtieth birthday, I ask you to accept my most sincere congratulations. With this I connect my best wishes, I wish you good health personally, as well as a happy future for the peoples of the friendly Soviet Union.

Adolf Gitler

The second was from Ribbentrop:

**TO MR JOSEPH STALIN MOSCOW Mindful of
the historical clock in the Kremlin, which marked the beginning of a
decisive turn in relations between the two great peoples and thus created
the basis for a long-lasting friendship between them, I ask you to accept
on the day of your sixtieth birthday**

my warmest wishes.

Joachim von Ribbentrop, Minister of Foreign Affairs On
December 25, Pravda also published response telegrams
Stalin to these addressees. In a telegram to the Reich Minister, Stalin wrote:
**"Friendship between the peoples of Germany and the Soviet Union, sealed
blood, has every reason to be long and lasting.**

Wrote a letter to Stalin on December 21 and his old comrade Klim
Voroshilov: **"Koba**

**and Vyacheslav! The thing is rubbish! The roads are in rubble, the
infantry does not act at the front as an organized force, but dangles here
and there, like a mass almost uncontrollable by anyone, which, at the first
shot fired, scatters in disarray through shelters and into the forest. Many
regiments went to fight with single machine guns against an infantry unit,
the rest are waiting for a "breakthrough" in order to solemnly march to
Vyborg. The Military Council of the 7th Army does nothing organizationally
"...**

Alas, having passed the foreground of the "Mannerheim Line", the troops
ran into it, and there were no successes in other sectors of
the front. The Finns fought prepared and skillfully. We are mediocre... But
it was said long ago that a herd of rams led by a lion is better than a flock of
lions led by a ram.

The Red Army mass was not a herd of sheep, but it was far from lions at
the head ... And it was, of course, not in the "purges" ... In the late thirties, the
army was basically cleared of ballast or direct politically hostile people ...
Innocent one way or another or returned to the ranks - like commander
Rokossovsky, or at will - like political worker Semyon Rudnev ...

The country and Stalin gave the army weapons. But was Stalin obliged to
teach the military how to use it? And did Stalin have to plan the combat training
of rifle companies?

Only on September 1, 1939, the extraordinary Fourth session of the
Supreme Soviet of the USSR adopted the Law on universal military

responsibilities ... Previously, the army was almost a militia ... But, therefore, in these years - until the 39th, the sense of responsibility of those to whom the country handed a rifle to protect its peaceful life should have been especially high ...

Was it like this among the military leaders of the armed masses - army commanders of the 1st, 2nd and

other ranks? The first real test showed - no! Stalin was angry: our military failures were reflected in our foreign policy - after all, the necks of politicians from all over the world were then turned on the Karelian Isthmus. And

Stalin's anger was quite understandable and justified. The Leningrad Military District was then commanded by Army Commander 2nd

Rank Kirill Meretskov. For the first time, Stalin called him to discuss the situation on the Finnish border at the end of June 1939. It was difficult to expect a military alliance with the Anglo-French, and its benefits were doubtful. Relations with Germany were also murky.

— Comrade Meretskov! Do you understand the complexity of the situation? "That's right, Comrade Stalin!" The border is restless. - Yes I know. But you should also know that Finland can become a springboard for a strike against us by any of the two main imperialist groupings—both the German and the Anglo-French-American. Meretskov

somehow even took aback, and Stalin explained:

- It is possible that they will generally begin to agree on a joint action against us. And Finland may turn out to be a bargaining chip in someone else's game here ... - I understand

- something like a pug ... - Rather - a direct skirmisher of a big war ... Meretskov nodded.

Stalin, somehow pulling himself up, as if giving a combat order, he said clearly:

"You are instructed to prepare a memorandum and report on your plan. There are other options ... Let's see, compare, decide ...

Discussions with the military went on all summer and autumn ... Former head of the Leningrad Military District, head of the General

Headquarters of the Red Army Commander 1st Rank Shaposhnikov warned about the complexity of the theater of operations, about the weather and suggested concentrating powerful forces for a possible strike. Stalin flared

up: - What are you -

require such significant forces and funds for small Finland? Are you going to throw almost the entire army there?

Then he was reproached from behind the eyes for underestimating the enemy, although Stalin was "guilty" only of expecting the same selfless and **daily** service to the Soviet Union from the Soviet military, which he himself professed. And he was sincerely sure - if a fighter is well trained and armed, then can a Russian soldier lose to a Finnish soldier who does not have close the technical support that our soldier had? Yes, the "Mannerheim Line" was an obstacle ... But after all, military intelligence over the ten years of its construction could not reveal its real potential. It was believed that this line is not so strong. After the war, however, the scouts grumbled that they supposedly found out everything in time - they just didn't take into account their data. But then what kind of military planning did the military have? Stalin

had the right to count on the thoroughness and responsibility of Soviet citizens in uniforms, on which, although there were no shoulder straps, command buttonholes shone with bright colors ... And he was, of course, right in that!

By that time, the country had given the army a lot. But who was supposed to prepare troops for combat operations, carefully plan very possible military operations in the Finnish theater of operations? Pushkin? - as they used to say in the thirties? Stalin? - as

his critics were already saying in those days,

when did the collapse of our pre-war calculations come to light in December 1939?

Or even - People's Commissar of Defense

Voroshilov? Hey brothers! The General Staff and other headquarters should have planned! Comrades Tukhachevsky, Shaposhnikov, Vasilevsky, Meretskov...

But was it possible to speak seriously about the serious work of the General Staff of the Red Army, if this highest headquarters entered the war with

instructions of 1905 - more on this later - on December 23, 1940, Meretskov himself said. Boris

Mikhailovich Shaposhnikov considered the General Staff to be the "brain of the army". The comparison was beautiful, honorable, but in peacetime the General Staff had to be also that "draught horse" that would pull all the operational planning of a possible war in all possible directions. And the General Staff had to plan it in such a way that the lower headquarters of the military districts and armies would go with the General Staff in one "team", feeling the commonality of efforts - as they feel it, who understand each other well, the rooster and the tie-downs ...

And what about the time before the war? After all, Stalin gave Meretskov and Shaposhnikov a clear task to prepare for war with Finland. It will reach it or not - the military does not care. They are obliged to fight every day - on the maps, in calculations, constantly making changes to plans and calculations. It was enough to look through the

diary of the German General Staff Officer Halder to understand: the real General Staff is not only the brain, but also the circulatory system, and the heart of the army, which cannot but live an active life every second, without stopping activity at any moment. And in the Soviet General Staff before the "Finnish" war, they thought too much and did

too little. When Stalin realized this, he sent Shaposhnikov on vacation to the Black Sea and entrusted the operational planning of the operation to Meretskov and the headquarters of the Leningrad Military District ... But even this headquarters ***missed the situation*** ... Already when everything was over, from April

14 to composition of the Red Army to

summarize the experience of the war ... 44-year-old commander Valerian Frolov, commander of the 14th Army, reproachfully reported:

"At the beginning of the offensive, we knew absolutely nothing, even such an item as nickel mining ... One could find out even in peacetime ... "Here in Moscow we knew,"

Stalin said. "But we didn't know," Frolov objected. And

Stalin is Stalin! —

said in reply:

"Sorry for not saying anything...

But it was not Stalin who was to blame, but the Shaposhnikov apparatus and Meretskov. That is - ultimately - they are!

The same Frolov said that the Finns "are very afraid of the flank" and "when even a battalion appears on the flanks, they withdraw, even abandoning fortified areas." And the General

Staff and Meretskov planned to take the "Mannerheim Line" "on the forehead" ...

And how to take it! Before the Finnish War, according to the charters of the "great" commanders - in theory - Tukhachevsky, Uborevich and other "major theorists" - in the first attacking echelon of the 17,000 (seventeen thousand) rifle division, 640 (six hundred and forty) fighters were to advance. The rest had to wait for their breakthrough and

"develop success" ... It was not even the General Staff version of the Russian proverb "One with a bipod, seven with a spoon." Here, for one bayonet attacking the front line of the enemy in the first blow, there were almost twenty-seven (!) Bayonets waiting in the rear ...

Kirill Meretskov also spoke about this in December 1940 ... And the same Shaposhnikov forbade the headquarters to form partisan-sabotage detachments. They were formed already during the fighting - without permission, really in a "partisan" way. THAT'S HOW the matter stood with the General

Staff and the charters. And how was it with the commanders? Grigory Stern, born

900. In the Red Army, from the very beginning, everything went to commissar positions. Having joined the Red Army in March 1919 and soon - in the RCP (b), in August he became the commissar of the regiment, and so it went ... From 1929 to 1936 Stern was at the disposal of the People's Commissar of Defense and only in the 36th he entered system - the commander of the 7th cavalry division. And a year later he is the Chief Military Adviser in

Spain. I don't know what special military experience he had there. But in 1938 he was appointed chief of staff of the Far Eastern District, and soon he, commanding the 39th Rifle Corps, together with Blucher, failed the Khasan operation. The heights near Lake Khasan remained behind us, but we got it far from little blood ... Nevertheless, Stern is put at the head of the troops operating in Mongolia, but even there he did not win special laurels -

victory

provided by the average commanders and the firm hand of Zhukov. Stern, however, received the title of Hero of the Soviet Union "by position"

for Khalkhin Gol ... Apparently, Grigory Mikhailovich had strong "friends"

at the top ... In the Finnish war, he commanded the 8th Army - even more deplorably than Khasan. The army did not achieve success, but the 18th Rifle Division and the 34th Light Tank Brigade were surrounded and almost completely destroyed ...

Forty-year-old brigade commander Nikolai Yakovlev, chief of artillery of the Kiev Special Military District, was sent to the Finnish front already in December... There he met with old acquaintances - commander Grendal, chief of artillery of the 7th army Parsegov... He visited the chief of staff of the 7th army Govorov.

And Yakovlev was literally discouraged by the low effectiveness of artillery fire, although there was a lot of artillery. The troops fired as they wanted - without regard to the importance of targets - from any caliber! Before

the war, Govorov often led military games at artillery training camps ... Games are good ... But this is

what they reported to People's Commissar Voroshilov at the end of December 1939: "**Articles fire uncontrollably without sufficient reconnaissance of targets, not achieving the desired result. Since November 30, one 116th artillery regiment fired 17,700 152-mm rounds (72 wagons) ... In the 455th artillery regiment, commands were given for quick fire from 280-mm mortars and 152-mm howitzer guns of the 1937 model ... There were cases when combined arms**

the commanders demanded to conduct harassing fire from 280-mm mortars at night. A heavy mortar shell is already a "suitcase" weighing a good two hundred kilograms. It had to be brought to the mortar - a heavy siege weapon - with a winch. And the brave military, instead of smashing the "millionth" pillboxes of the "Mannerheim line" from these mortars after careful reconnaissance, fired from them fluent and

disturbing (that is, on the "squares", "into the white light, like a pretty penny") fire! What did all these mortars, howitzer cannons, divisional and regi

and explosive compositions, new factories, new artillery design bureaus, sleepless nights... For the mere quality control of 152-mm

howitzer shells (weight - about 50 kilograms), the Ural branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences developed a special magnetic-powder flaw detector.

And then the brave gunners threw these shells at random - wagons! Y-yes ... Could Stalin

have

assumed something like that? The authors of the report

to the People's Commissar concluded it as follows: **"Attitude towards saving the**

savings

And

troops of artillery shots

V

disdainful." They still

wrote their own, and therefore they wrote softly. And it was true to write - "criminal" ...

Such was the case with the higher commanders. And how was it with the army in general? The Red

Army was already well equipped at the end of the thirties - this was the result of the efforts of both Stalin and his "team", and the new engineering and scientific youth of the new country. And all the working people of Russia ... But did the efforts of the military themselves correspond

to the efforts of the country to equip these military? To this question, the reader can now

answer myself...

And how did the commanders, commanders and brigade commanders prepare and teach their subordinates, how did they command them? And

here's how ... The commander of the rifle regiment of the 8th Army, Colonel Raevsky, was appointed to this position by order of the People's Commissar of Defense on December 18, 39-year.

On the evening of December 29, he arrived in Petrozavodsk and saw such pictures there that on New Year's Eve he sent a memorandum to Voroshilov ... The colonel

knew how to write, knew how to think, and this is what he wrote :

Impressions and observations, I have the opinion that the measures taken until today do not promise us victory with little bloodshed.

Among the servicemen who are in Petrozavodsk, military discipline is extremely low. In the city and in public places you can see a lot of drunken Red Army soldiers and commanders ... They have a loose, lax and untidy appearance ... The relationship between superiors and subordinates is not built on the requirements of charters, but familiarity and some kind of nepotism are felt in everything. Subordinates are not ordered, but asked and persuaded ... From

conversations with a number of commanders who were and are at the front, we can conclude that the situation with discipline is bad there

too ... It is surprising to me to hear that our troops suffer huge losses and do not have any success from - because they are not ... trained in

skiing ... How did this happen, why didn't someone follow your repeated orders on ski training and why didn't the troops fulfill the requirements of PU-36 (Field Regulations of the Red Army of 1936. - S.K.) - chapter ten? After all, in this chapter dozens of times and endlessly reminded of the use of skis. And why did the troops of the northern districts not master the ski business, when they were supposed to fulfill the requirements of PU-36 and your other orders
100

percent? And why didn't someone think about bringing skis here in advance, and why didn't someone start ski training from the first day it snowed here, and even until now everyone is just about to start ski training? The next day after writing

the note, Colonel Raevsky left for the front. And now we ask - who was supposed

to put the personnel of the Leningrad Military District on skis - Stalin or all the same - Meretskov? But Raevsky also wrote that our troops are fighting

only along the roads, and the forests are occupied by the Finns, they go to the flank, to the rear and sow panic ... And therefore it is necessary to comb the forests. Yes, without convoys, without guns, but with dry rations for five days and with machine guns on skis ...

He wrote that on frozen swamps you can safely plant airborne troops with equipment.

He wrote about young sapper lieutenants who, after two years of school, were not confident in their knowledge and did not even have with them the Engineering Manual for the RKKA-1939 infantry ...

By the way, another colonel, military intelligence officer Khadzhi-Umar Mamsurov, later spoke about this to Stalin himself. The ten lieutenants assigned to him from the Tambov Infantry School did not own a compass or a map ... But all ten had impeccable drill training and were "very trained." Nevertheless, they were not suitable for battle ... The commander of just a

rifle regiment, stipulating that he, of course, did not know all the details, was surprised: **"Is it really *impossible to land several divisions from the sea? After all, we saw how the Japanese in China very boldly and impudently carry out successful landing operations.***

Surprised something Colonel Raevsky reasonably. However, the General Staff had a traditionally "infantry" orientation ... What is there to interact with the sailors!

From the beginning of January 1940, Stalin personally had to worry even about crackers and concentrates for the troops, because the military leaders "did not deal with crackers" ... When

at the April meeting the chief quartermaster Andrei Khrulev complained about this, Stalin remarked: -

Count Kutuzov was engaged, and they -

No. Even those to whom it was addressed laughed, but in fact it was addressed to the entire top command staff of the Red Army. Stalin had the whole country and even more in his hands, but he took the time to find out for himself - what about the soldier's "concentrate"? And then he informed the commanders:

- I tried. Put in hot water and after three minutes it blooms ... And in cold water - after ten to twelve minutes

ready-made porridge with bacon ...

But Stalin still had a new country in his hands ... And summing up the results of the "winter war" already won, Stalin could say:

— What is revealed here? That our people are new people. Despite all their shortcomings, they are very fast, within some

a month and a half, transformed, became different, and our army emerged from this war as an almost completely modern army, but something is still missing ...

Saying this to the army commanders and commanders, who will soon (from May 7) have to get used to the general's buttonholes and ranks, Stalin smiled and continued in a

comradely manner: - Our army has become strong with both feet on the rails of the new, real Soviet modern

army ... He circled without five minutes of the generals with an attentive, eagle look of narrowed eyes

and added: - It's good that our army had the opportunity to get this experience not with German aviation, but in Finland, with God's help ...

Stalin was right - the army seemed to have received a good lesson and got rid of many weaknesses. However, only weaknesses were seen in the outside world, and stories began to circulate around the world about the "Russian colossus with feet of clay", whose

military power is a bluff. It was both bad and unfair - after all, we took this damn line of the name of the former Russian

cavalry guard! The "Mannerheim LINE", about which much has already been said, was - in the language of the military - a system of long-term fortifications and barriers on the Karelian Isthmus with a length of 135 kilometers and a depth of up to 90 kilometers. The depth of defense is that space

that is fortified, which the troops do not need to pass, but "break through". And on the Karelian Isthmus there was

something to break through! 296 long-term reinforced concrete firing points - pillboxes, 897 granite structures, minefields, machine-gun points ... Saturation with fire on the main defensive strip - 6-7 bullets per minute per linear meter of the front ... In the forests - snipers, whom our soldiers immediately called "cuckoos" ,

because they often arranged their "nests" in the trees. But the Finns, in general, were distinguished by very accurate shooting ...

So it was objectively difficult to fight, and with the organization that our army commanders and commanders discovered, it was generally impossible if victory was set as the task ...

But the confusion passed, new commanders came ... New events were quickly brewing ... The Finnish

counteroffensive on December 23 choked with the blood of several thousand dead ... The Finns were confused, and we came to our senses ... True, in January there was that incident with Stern's 8th Army, about which said...

But we came to our senses... And the stupid Finnish leaflets, where those who surrendered were promised 100 rubles for a revolver, 150 for a rifle, as much as 10,000 for a tank, and, in addition, warm bunk beds and delicious bread, no longer angered, but amused ... Yes, we came

to our senses ... However, it took a month from
superfluous...

Then the Red Army, having paid in December and January with the blood of soldiers and lieutenants for the irresponsibility of commanders and commanders, on February 11 began to break through the Mannerheim

Line. By February 23, her breakthrough was completed ... After that, everything went very quickly ... After all, the Russians only harness for a long time - while the coachmen are stupid ... But the "coachmen" were replaced, who were spurred on, And...

And the Russians

went... At the beginning of March, the Finnish front was already running out of steam... However, the Finns were still counting on the "Churchill-Daladier-

Roosevelt line"... And this "line" had to be torn as quickly as possible as well. ON DECEMBER 14, 1939, Halder wrote in his diary: **"The conflict with Finland is pushing Russia into the anti-English camp."** By the way, on the same day, he noted that Germany had sold the Lutzow heavy cruiser to the USSR ... Laid down at the Deshimag AG Wesser shipyard in 1937, bought by us for 106.5 million gold marks and first named cruiser L in the USSR, it was later renamed Petropavlovsk and brought to Leningrad to the concrete wall of plant No. 189 on May 31, 1940 ...

But the Finnish war "pushed" us not just into the anti-English camp - in some respects, Russia was always in it when it conducted more or less a national policy. The "winter war" quickly showed how fragile the military "alliance" that

in August 1939, Voroshilov discussed in Moscow with Admiral Drax and General Dumenok ..

Once again, it was revealed how the "democratic" West hates Russia - not even the Soviet Union, but precisely Russia, and how he sees for her only one role in the political life of the world - to ensure the interests of this West, or rather, its Golden Elite ... And finally, the obvious became even clearer - the West really wants to

"divorce" Russia and Germany ... Already on November 30, Chamberlain, in his speech in the House of Commons, sharply

opposed the USSR and supported Finland. On 5 December Halifax did the same in the House of Lords. At the end of December, the Moscow Ambassador of England, Seeds, went on a long "vacation" ...

Our envoy Maisky was immediately attacked by journalists: - Mr. Maisky, they say that you are also

responding to Moscow? Why do you use the word "respond"? - But Seeds... - As far as I know, Mr. Seeds just went on vacation. And he has the right to do

so ... - But they say that your luggage is already on the freight

station...

"Gentlemen, as you can see, I don't have a traveling coat on ..."

"But they say that you are disappointed with your work in London and leave it... — On

the contrary, I have been fascinated by London ever since I got here. for the first time in my youth...

- But... -

Gentlemen, all the rumors about the recall of the Soviet plenipotentiary are absolutely groundless...

Of course, the British from Downing Street, where Prime Minister Chamberlain was located, and from the Foreign Office, the residence of Halifax, wanted to make Moscow itself go to a break as a result of parliamentary speeches and newspaper hype ... However, Stalin and Molotov were not

going to give Britain such pleasure, and Maisky received clear instructions - to spit on all provocations with the most calm air. What is he with

He did it with success, although even some of his acquaintances from the Labor (that is, by name, workers) party stopped greeting him ...

On the other hand, the Finnish envoy in London, Gripenberg, became the hero of the day, and his photos and interviews were an indispensable detail of

English newspapers ... By the way, the Laborites sent a delegation of trade unions to Finland, headed by General Secretary Sitrin, and the top trade union leader, upon his return, presented a report where the Russians looked almost like cannibals... On January 21, 1940, the report was published in the Observer.

Churchill wrote about **"the**

indignation caused in England, France and in an even more acute form in the United States at the sight of an unprovoked (N-yes! - S.K.) attack by a gigantic Soviet power on a small, brave and highly civilized nation ..."
on

Interestingly! The same Churchill at about the same time wrote that "the Eastern Front potentially still exists", meaning that the Russians and Germans received a common border and can now immediately grab each other's throats, thus pleasing the West and saving it ... And now he blasphemed the Soviet Union, risking embittering it. Why? Undoubtedly, because neither Hitler nor Stalin behaved as the Golden

Elite would have liked ... And irritation poured out in support of Finland ... France not only did not lag behind Britain, but even ran ahead ... Still, a multi-millionaire ambassador in

London Joseph Kennedy simply and straightforwardly believed that since the Europeans were fighting, the United States could step aside... Kennedy was a brilliant "outsider" who did not belong psychologically and organizationally to the circles of the Golden Elite, and could afford to say
what he thinks and what he is convinced of...

But in Paris, the ambassador was a trusted member of the Elite - "brother" Bullitt, and the French especially went on a rampage.

This was also facilitated by the fact that the French "two hundred families" especially suffered from the October Revolution and everyone could not calm down ... The idea of a pan-European campaign against Soviet Russia, no longer inclined to feed bank accounts with its sweat and blood

French rentiers, in France it always smoldered, but now it raged again.
The

French socialists also raged. Leon Blum said that the Finns should be helped even at the cost of a war with the USSR. The General Confederation of Labor fully agreed with him ... On

the evening of December 14, French Ambassador to England Corbin suggested that the British "bind the forces of the Soviet Union in the North" ... The next day, Daladier himself received the Finnish Ambassador Holman and Colonel Paasonen and assured of his readiness to "sever relations with the Soviet Union if the British do the same...

On December 19, Daladier proposed this to the British and at the same time for the first time raised the question of sending an expeditionary force to Finland. And behind it all was William Bullitt. To be more precise - the same lean gentleman in a

top hat and with a goatee I will say right away that it did not come to a break - the British did not dare to go for it, but the supply of weapons to Finland was very serious ... The numbers, however, were called

different at different times ... So, after the war, Mannerheim counted for England a hundred fighters and reconnaissance aircraft delivered two dozen Bristol-Blenheim bombers, and Chamberlain himself named on March 19, 1940 the figure of 101 aircraft (plus 214 guns, 185 thousand shells, 50 thousand hand grenades, 15,700 bombs, 10 thousand anti-tank mines and other things).

France gave the Finns 175 aircraft, 496 guns, more than 5 thousand machine guns, 200 thousand grenades and 20 million rounds of ammunition... There were deliveries of weapons from Sweden, Hungary, Belgium... And over and over again the idea of sending troops against Russia arose... On January 16, a proposal was submitted to the French Parliament to break off diplomatic relations with the USSR. He was immediately supported by the

press, paid not so much in francs as in Bullitt dollars ... And on February 5 and 8, the Paris police raided the Soviet

trade mission and the premises of Intourist ... On the 5th of February, the Supreme Union Council - encouraged by the same Bullitt and Uncle Sam, - decided to send Anglo-French troops to Finland. It was supposed

whether 1 50,000th, or 100,000th expeditionary corps - several British divisions and 50 thousand French volunteers ... VOLUNTEERS, but - only volunteers -

rushed "to war with Bolshevism" from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, USA...

In England, Leopold Emery undertook to recruit volunteers ... Lord Davis provided the Thorney House mansion in Smith Square, Lord Nuffield allocated funds, the organizing committee included Lord Balfour of Burley, Lord Phillimore, Harold Macmillan. Madame Briddy organized a ladies' committee for knitting warm socks... By the end of February 1940, it was recruited... 500 volunteers (300 of which reached Finland)... Volunteers were given round badges with the

letters NI, which meant "Non-intervention", that is - "non-intervention". These badges were left over from the Spanish Civil War, but now the British volunteers were ready **to intervene**, and wore the badges upside down, so it turned out "IN" - with a hint of the international character of the contingent ... All this mouse fuss of the British lion showed that the English masses—to whom even the war with the

Germans was not very clear—the new front, now against the Russians, had no enthusiasm

will cause...

The Scandinavian countries themselves did not burn with enthusiasm either. The Finns officially applied for military assistance to the Swedes, but they refused. The Swedish king Gustav reasonably noted that this act would bring Sweden out of the state of neutrality and would mean entry into the war not only with the USSR, but in general in the war of the big powers. The

Swedes behaved prudently ... When England and France turned to Sweden with a request to allow the transit of their troops through Swedish territory to help Finland, the Swedes also refused to transit, for the first time doing this back in early January 40th year.

Still would! Not only could parts of the allies somehow inadvertently **get** stuck in Sweden, the fact of transit would also be hostile both to the USSR and to Germany. And on occasion, the Germans could have neglected the neutrality that the Swedes themselves would have neglected.

That is, the friendliness of Germany really helped us in this "winter war" ... Especially since the Germans recognized Finland as a Soviet sphere of influence - which was only fair.

There was one more moment in the situation... Helping the Finns, the British indirectly justified the need for their presence in Norway... And having entered Norway, they blocked the supply of Swedish iron ore to Germany from the Norwegian Narvik... While the Germans were inclined towards peace, the Golden Elite wished and the geographical expansion of the war, and its continuation for years.

On January 1, 1940, General Halder made the following entry in his official diary about Scandinavia: **"Sweden**

and Norway are strictly neutral ... We are interested in Norway remaining neutral. If England threatens the neutrality of Norway, then our position

change..."

So why did the Scandinavians need it?

Yes, and ordinary Englishmen - not from lords and dukes ...

And ordinary Frenchmen - not from "two hundred families" ...

They needed peace ...

The English historian Taylor wrote: "The motives of the planned expedition to Finland are contrary to common sense. For Great Britain and France to provoke a war with Russia when they were at war with Germany seems crazy, and it suggests a more sinister plan: to direct the war along an anti-Bolshevik course so that the war against Germany can be forgotten or ended.

But there were other opinions ...

On MARCH 5, 1940, the English intelligence officer and newspaperman Paul Dukes, well remembered in Soviet Russia for the Civil War, frankly told The Times: "We should consider whether it is possible to deliver a mortal blow ... to Hitler through Stalin . ***The question is not about an attack on Russia, but only about the destruction of aggression ... Hitler wants to free Stalin's hands to receive from Russia those supplies that Russia is not able to give him while Finland is resisting. Obviously, Finland's unlimited aid ... to push back Stalin would be the most effective blow against Hitler.***

He was immediately supported in his letter to the same "Times" by a certain Commander Spalding: **"Destroy Russia, and then Germany will be**

destroyed." Even a cat - as they say in England, you can look at the king ... Anyone can write and send letters even to The Times. But did The Times print any letter?

But there have already been published thoughts about whether it is possible to neutralize Stalin and Hitler by military actions from the Turkish borders by attacking Baku? They say that then neither one nor the other "dictator" will

have oil... Moreover, on October 19, 1939, an Anglo-French agreement on mutual assistance was signed in Ankara...

Yevgeny Vasilyevich Sablin, known to us, reported from London to Maklakov in Paris on March 19, 1940: **"Here they talk about the bombing of the Baku industries and the movement of the allied armies from Syria**

and Mosul ..." English gentlemen, however, do not put all their eggs in one basket, therefore in the English press there was also a place for articles pitting Russia and

Germany. Immediately after the signing of the Soviet-Finnish peace treaty, another commander, a member of parliament from King Hall, calmed the public in the oldest (founded in 1737) Northern Irish newspaper News Letters: "Stalin's intentions do not at all include the search for some kind of" living space "At the expense of Scandinavia. Stalin's appearance in Finland pursued only one goal: to protect Russia from the German invasion in case Germany turned out to be the winner. In this case, Hitler, of course, would have tried to find "living space" at the expense of Russia, which is so eloquently mentioned in "Mein Kampf" ... In "Mein Kampf", Hitler actually wrote

about the possibility of an alliance with Russia against the West, but that's all. but the commander-parliamentarian twisted his thought coolly and not stupidly! A hint was made here to Hitler: Stalin does not trust you. A hint was also made to Stalin: if you help Hitler, he will stab you when the West wins ... The conclusion

suggested itself: Germans and Russians should be friends they can't, but both of them are best guided by London. However, all this was, as they say, so far in vain.

The same Sablin wrote on March 19: ***“The question of Finland can be consider exhausted. She will still be pitied... and then forgotten...”***

By the way, he further wrote like this: ***“... as they have already forgotten about Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, especially since British information from these countries indicates that the Soviet occupying forces behave quite decently in these outskirts, do not interfere in internal affairs , and there are no signs of sovietization.***

Sablin himself did not see a contradiction in himself - the "occupying forces" interfere in the internal affairs of the occupied territories by virtue of their very nature. And for this reason alone, it was incorrect to call our troops introduced into the Baltics “occupation”.

But, one way or another, both the "Baltic" and "Finnish" problems were Russia - unfortunately the Golden Elite - closed.

But quite recently far-reaching plans were being made ... At the end of February, information came from London and Paris to Helsinki about the acceleration of the dispatch of troops. The Allies were clearly ready to put the Norwegians and Swedes before the fact - when the troops had already landed in Norwegian ports ...

Yes, the Finnish war here was such a convenient excuse, and the readiness of the allies to seriously get involved in it was so strange that the neutral Scandinavians could understand that if peace was not restored in Europe, then their destiny was the occupation of one of the parties. And it was the allies who did not

want peace. But the British slyly offered the Norwegians broad military support in the event of the provision of ports, covering Trondheim, Bergen, Stavanger, Narvik ... The landing was planned no later than March 20th. The

first echelon was supposed to be transported by sea to Narvik on 15 March.

By the way, 20 thousand Polish soldiers of General Sikorsky interned in Latvia and Lithuania were ready to get involved in the battle with the "Muscovites". And these quasi-states, allegedly “occupied”, allegedly “under the control of the cruel Soviets”, were ready to release the Poles so that they would end up in Finland in transit through Sweden ..

And Chief of the Imperial General Staff, General Ironside reported to Marshal Mannerheim the following layout of the first echelon:

***two and a half brigades of
French Alpine Fusiliers*** 8500 men

two battalions of the "Foreign Legion" 2000
people

one battalion of Poles 1000
people

1st British Guards Brigade 3,500 men

1st British Ski Battalion 500 men

The total is 15,500 men plus three service battalions.
The second echelon - three British divisions of 14 thousand each.

Then it was supposed to gradually build up the forces of the expeditionary force
with its subordination to the Finnish Supreme
command.

THESE INFORMATION arrived at the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on
March 7 ... However, on March 6, the Finnish delegation headed by Ryti left for
Moscow to conclude

peace ... help in every way" and that he, Daladier, does not understand why
such an appeal is being postponed.

But the Finns have already realized that even the brave polar lemming is better
not to tease the mighty polar bear. The Finns were exhausted and exhausted.
Although they were still full of anger at the Russians, who nevertheless defended
their legal rights, and just like the Germans, who threw away the last Versailles tatters
of papers, gave new-made Finland something that she rightfully could not claim ...

The Finns were still embittered, but it was already impotent anger ... The Finns
were no longer able to fight and were only able to

surrender in desire for some peace...

And on March 12, 1940, he was imprisoned. General Ironside, learning of this, did not hide his bitterness. "We suffered a second defeat," he said, referring to the first Poland ...

The French did not limit themselves to comments. On March 15, Paris refused to extend the Soviet-French trade agreement, and an arrest was made on the amounts that French firms were supposed to pay us. And on March 26, our envoy Surits was declared persona non grata, and the French demanded his recall.

On April 26, the French authorities seized the valuables of our trade mission. In fact, the

French in some places acted together with the British. In the distant Far Eastern waters, French and English cruisers began to threaten our commercial traffic. And on March 28, the British and French detained two Soviet steamships "Selenga" and "Vladimir Mayakovsky", arrested their crews and took the ships first to Haiphong and Saigon, and then to English Hong Kong. And our Ambassador Maisky spent weeks trying to get the Foreign

Office to tell the truth, and the British were asking - were the cargoes not intended for Germany? Well, on the other hand, on February 11 we

concluded a new economic agreement with the Germans. From our side, it was signed by People's Commissar for Foreign Trade Mikoyan and trade representative in Germany Babarin, from the German side by Dr.

Pravda published a joint communiqué about this, which stated: ***"The economic***

agreement provides for the export of raw materials from the USSR to Germany, compensated by German deliveries of industrial products to the USSR. The trade

turnover between Germany and the USSR in the first year of the agreement will reach a volume exceeding the highest levels ever achieved since the World War.

There is an intention to further increase mutual deliveries of goods in the future."

But Germany - still pre-Nazi, Weimar - already supplied us in the thirties with almost the entire industrial base of construction projects of the first five-year plans, and was already our largest trading partner! The USSR was

quickly turning into an industrial power, our natural resources were enormous, and partnership with Germany opened up prospects, without exaggeration, grandiose ...

France, which is increasingly entering into a crisis, instead of reconciling with the Germans and normalizing relations with us, expelled our envoy. Moreover, it was no longer Daladier who did it, but Paul Reynaud ... This buffoon with a foppish mustache and in a bowler hat lived up to the hopes of his mistress, the Countess de Port, and became prime minister. Daladier's cabinet was dismissed by "two hundred families" and the Golden International for lack of prospects. After all, Daladya was already tired of

the war. On March 21, Reynaud formed a new cabinet in order to conduct the war more decisively. The mistress of the retired Daladier, the Marquise de Crussol, bit her elbows and lace handkerchiefs from

Lyon silk...

So the "Churchill-Daladier-Roosevelt line" was also broken

through ... At least - temporarily. Unlike the pillboxes of the "Mannerheim Line", it could quickly recover in one form or another, but this was a matter

of the future ... So far, the enthusiasts of expanding the war have been defeated - like their

protégés, the Finns. The peace treaty was signed on March 12, and our border with the Finns moved beyond Vyborg ... In 1812, Emperor Alexander I annexed the Russian province of Vyborg to the newly acquired Grand Duchy of Finland. Now she was returning to Russia, along with the second largest city in Finland, Viipuri - Vyborg ... We also received the Hanko Peninsula ... For rent, for our naval

and air base. Murmansk and the Murmansk railway were now well covered by the new territories.

Previously, Murmansk was easily vulnerable with

the neighboring Finnish (and now our) islands, and the road was easily cut ...
We completely

regained Lake Ladoga - previously cut in two by the border - with the town of Sortavala on its shore. We bought something for ourselves in Karelia.

Instead of receiving lands in exchange for peace, the Finns eventually lost an eighth of their fields and forests and almost a third of their water resources ... But there was a nuance, which I will tell you more about ... Now the northern border between Russian and foreign lands passed

approximately along the border of Peter the Great, determined by the Treaty of Nishtad in 1721, which ended that Northern War between Russia and Sweden, which Peter fought for 21 years. After two hundred years, everything was decided in three months ... The new Finnish

Prime Minister Risto Heikki Ryti - "a seasoned fighter against communism" according to the US press - after the start of the "winter war" declared that the Finns would fight to the end and even after the end. Now he cautiously asked Molotov - how would Moscow react to the strengthening of its new border by the Finns?

"Build as many fortifications as you like," the
Vyacheslav Mikhailovich.

And what! After all, we did not receive foreign lands, but our own - by Peter reclaimed. And we didn't need anything else...

We didn't even lay claim to the Petsamo nickel mines... Even the oldest British daily Evening Standard was surprised: "The City of London was little interested in whether Stalin would take Vyborg or Hange (Khanko. — S.K.) . They were only interested in what would happen to the nickel in Petsamo. Stalin had only to stretch out his hand, and the nickel would have been in his hand like a ripe fruit. But he abstained and the City breathed a sigh of relief."

The mines - in Finnish territory - were owned by an Anglo-Canadian company with close ties to the French "nickel kings", and was it worth it to tease the dogs? It is unlikely ... And now - a little
about the

"some nuance" promised by the author, my dear reader! The author was not mistaken in speaking of new territories as reconquered, not conquered...

The lands were really conquered, if we remember that the Swedes took over these Novgorod estates for several centuries, starting from the time of the Russian fortress Oreshka on the Ladoga island of Orekhov, from the Orekhovets "eternal" peace of 1323, from the Stolbovsky Treaty of 1617 - when Russia had to give Sweden Ladoga with the city of Korela, which has become Kexholm, and now - our Priozersk ...

We have taken our own ... And now we needed one thing from the Finns - so that they do not become a new bargaining chip in someone else's big game ... And the GAME became more and more large. And the Golden Elite would like to turn the whole of

Europe into a bargaining chip in it ... In Europe itself, however, not everyone wanted this ... It was easier with France. Reynaud, an absolutely puppet figure if Big Capital was in the puppeteers, was ready to wage war in the interests of this Capital "to the last French soldier." But if England decided to withdraw from the game, then France would also have to do so, willy-

nilly. In England, just once again, they asked a natural question - is it not time to finish? And the Chamberlain government itself was almost ready to compromise with the Germans. Well, not the entire government. And his national - "Chamberlain" - majority.

The cosmopolitan (or simply stupid) minority, gravitating towards Churchill, stood for the continuation of the war. And at that moment, a 47-year-old career diplomat, Deputy Secretary of State Sumner Welles, headed for Europe across the ocean ... THE VISIT of

President Roosevelt's personal emissary turned out to be an event of great potential importance. It was stated that its purpose is to find out the possibility of ending the war and concluding peace. And this corresponded to the truth - with the only clarification that Welles' sounding was undertaken by America with the aim of continuing the war and excluding peace. However, first

things first... In early February 1940, Washington announced its intention to send its special representative to Europe. The official communication on the purpose of the trip emphasized: **"Mr. Welles does not**

received the authority to make proposals or incur commitments on behalf of the US government... His trip is undertaken only for the purpose of informing the President and the US Secretary of State about the current situation in Europe. On February 12, General Halder wrote down in

his diary information received from the ausamt: **"Sumner Welles. His itinerary: Rome, Berlin, Paris, London. Tasks: a) collection of information; b) preparation of proposals for mediation on the following two conditions: restoration of the Polish state; restoration of Czechoslovakia in accordance with the Munich Agreement.**

No interference in the internal affairs of Germany. No excessive reparations. American aid: money to support European currencies to help get European trade on its feet. Reasons: a) Bewilderment and confusion in connection

with the course of the war, b) They believe that America will not be left out of the conflict. The collapse of Finland. Military operations in the Balkans and the Middle East, the impact of these events on the United States. c) Internal political moments: presidential elections! Peace Angel! An initiative of England is possible in order to induce Roosevelt to intervene ... "

Halder's summary was accurate in presenting the apparent essence of the Yankees' visit, but the visit of the "angel of peace" Welles had a hidden meaning, hidden in the "double bottom" of his diplomatic "baggage"

Well, actually! Washington's proposals, ingenuously outlined by Halder, were so reasonable and so beneficial to the Europeans, with their obvious disadvantage for the United States (they needed "strengthening European currencies"!) That the words "underground Alexander ibn Ivanovich Koreiko and Petrov's - the hero of a millionaire" immediately came to mind. If novel The Golden Calf, popular in the USSR and the USA ... Koreiko liked to assure the citizens he was cheating on: "From now on, you will only receive." Welles offered something similar

to the Europeans. On February 17, he sailed from the New World to the Old World, and on February 23 he was already there. As Halder correctly noted, he was expected in Rome, Berlin, Paris and London.

Let us note that Welles was not going to Moscow... And it is unlikely that the slight disdain with which many began to treat the USSR after the "winter war" played a role here. The reasons lay, of course, deeper ... Although - in a sense - they lay on the surface ... On February

26, Welles had his first meeting with Mussolini He greeted the guest with caution. However, after handing Roosevelt's personal message, the Yankees began with a huge compliment to the Duce: "The President is counting on your peacekeeping talent. He would not mind crossing the ocean and meeting you somewhere halfway to Italy for personal and secret negotiations.

- ABOUT! - Mussolini immediately melted, who did not have to be fed with bread, if beckoned by mediation, - this is a great idea. But I can assure you right away that a compromise between Germany and the Allies is entirely possible! Accordingly, a lasting peace is quite possible. The Duce was so sure because Goering informed him of the mood of the Germans a few

days before Welles' arrival. And now he could be specific: - Germany would be satisfied with peace on the basis of the recognition of the Anschluss of Austria and the reality of the existence of an

independent Slovakia and a Bohemian protectorate. — And Poland? The Duce exchanged glances with Ciano and replied: - The Fuhrer, as I understand it, will compromise here too ... Poland can be restored, but the

lands inhabited by the Germans must remain in the Reich ... - And what would satisfy Italy? - Quite a few and, I hope, acceptable ... I have already spoken about this more than once: the transfer of Djibouti to us in Ethiopia, a seat on the

Council of the Suez Canal, the solid status of Italians in Tunisia ... - Is that all? The Duce hesitated, then added: - In addition, we would like to get a loan from the City, and also ... -

he hesitated again - the internationalization of Gibraltar.,.

On February 29, the Yankee left Rome and on March 2 was already at the reception of the Fuhrer ...

Hitler was a cold courtesy: - Herr Welles!

The situation is clear enough. Germany was discriminated against and merely regained its rightful place in Europe. However, we were attacked. Our goal is peace. The goal of our opponents is destruction.

- So, Mr. Hitler, Mr. Mussolini is correct informed me when he said you wanted peace?

- Yes!

- On what terms? -

They are, I confess, very numerous, but quite acceptable for those who sincerely want peace and are ready to face realities. So, Herr Hitler?

- So: Poland, not dangerous for Germany, limited by its natural limits. — That is, little Poland? - Yes ... Next -

autonomy for Bohemia and Moravia ... Outside of Europe - the return of our former colonies to us ...

- These are territorial conditions, but what about the rest?

— We would like Germany to have the right, without interference from other states, to form a large economic empire in Europe on the basis of a system of customs preferences... — And its contours? — Scandinavia,

Central and South-Eastern Europe... — And the Soviets? - My plan

provides for the broad development of economic relations with them. As you can see, these are peace plans... - But very wide

ones, - the Yankee smiled broadly, in a simple way. "Yes, but there's enough room for everyone," the Fuhrer also smiled and immediately became serious, "however, if in the very near future I don't come to an agreement with England and France on this base, then I'll go to war in earnest and defeat

them in six

months ..." "Not a long time!" - Nothing! I have new weapons and they will give me a decisive advantage in the struggle ...

At that time, Germany did not yet have really new - that is, missile - weapons, although the missile center in Peenemünde already existed.

created. However, the German Luftwaffe was a formidable force in its own right. And Goering explicitly hinted at this to Welles.

Welles also met with Ribbentrop and Hess, but the Fuhrer himself dictated the content of the conversations.

He ordered: - In conversation - extreme restraint. What we want, I already told him. Now let him speak himself, and you listen more.

On March 4, Hitler again received the American emissary in the presence of Ribbentrop, the head of the Reich Chancellery Meissner and the American charge d'affaires ...

"Herr Welles," he said. "Our relations with America cannot be called good, but if you are sent to begin their turn, then this is in the interests of both peoples. Welles started with Rome and Rome had to finish, so Hitler

immediately after the American left for Paris began writing a letter to the Duce, sending it on March 8 with Ribbentrop. It was important for him to provide the impression to Welles that the Duce and the Fuhrer were united.

Ribbentrop, having arrived in Rome with pomp, with a large retinue, had a long conversation with Mussolini and convinced him that Germany was confidently moving towards victory. "I know this

and I am also ready for war," the Duce said in response. "Britain is blockading me in my own sea... I won't stand for it..."

In Paris, Welles met with both the "left" and the "right", including French President Albert Le Brun, a purely nominal figure, the chairman of the Chamber of Deputies, the "socialist" Edouard Herriot, Georges Bonnet, and, of course, with himself Daladier.

The conversation with the prime minister took place on March 7, and Daladier languidly told Welles that without the restoration of Poland and Czechoslovakia, peace impossible.

This was said in a very routine way - and what else could the head of the government of the country, which got involved in the war because of Poland, say as the first message to the world? But not for the sake of

formality, Daladier said: "If contacts with Hitler lead to such a peace when France will be insured against a new war with Germany in the future, then we will make such contacts ...

This statement, perhaps, determined the further fate of Daladier - he was soon replaced by Reynaud ... Welles was

not sent to Moscow, which once again revealed the "American" trace in the "Finnish" problem. And besides, what could he offer Stalin? Therefore, in the Soviet Union, Welles'

conversations were known only from reconnaissance interceptions, and from the reports of the London plenipotentiary Maisky. Ivan Mikhailovich at that time often met with Halifax's deputy, Richard Butler, who represented the British Foreign Office in the House of Commons. The son of a major British dignitary in India, Butler was a career diplomat and a great figure. Halifax, as a lord, could only speak in the House of Lords. And all the speeches in the lower - more weighty - chamber were delivered by Butler. So Butler enlightened Maisky about Welles's London contacts, who, naturally, stayed in London longer and talked more. .

Received a Yankee and an audience with King George VI. On March 11, Chamberlain, meeting with Welles, denied the possibility of peace on Hitler's terms. But Chamberlain, as a mover of the war, ran out of steam almost as much as Daladier. And here, too, quick "organizational" conclusions were needed ... They were brewing for the Golden Elite, especially since the rationally and nationally minded British understood that

a bad peace with the Germans was better than a good quarrel. In the end, not everyone in England forgot the lessons of the First World War, and these lessons were actually that Britain dragged chestnuts from her fire for the Yankees. And from a world creditor before

the war, for a long time turned after the war into a debtor of those

or the Yankees.

Maisky, to whom Butler on March 18 told about the essence of all Welles' previous conversations in all capitals, asked him:

- Well, what do you think about Hitler's peace program? Butler shrugged and replied:

— Any program of the world must be approached with an open mind, without prejudice. Of course, in its original form there is a series

items that would have provoked strong opposition in British public opinion, but... - But... - But I don't think this program will be his last.

in a word... Negotiations are needed...

Negotiations can lead to peace... And Welles caught the mood of Chamberlain's cabinet... But public opinion is the press. And Lord, say, Beaverbrook, a newspaper magnate, rejected Hitler's program, indignant:

- How! Does he want the colonies back? Wants the actual capture of all of Europe? Does he want to hang over us like the sword of Damocles and dictate his will to us? However, Hitler

spoke of an economic empire, which Germany, the undisputed economic leader of Europe, could well claim. However, even without Beaverbrook in England there were enough lobbyists for the

war ... And most importantly, there was such an outstanding cosmopolitan personality as Churchill, whose influence on the situation was all the stronger because he was perceived by everyone (and even, it seems, by himself) as a kind of model of true British. After conducting his soundings and once again "checking in" in Rome, Welles

departed for the ocean.

In confidential conversations in London and Paris, the American emissary encouraged the allies to participate in future US events. If he wanted peace, it would have been enough to say the same in Berlin, and Hitler, most likely, would have at least thought about it ... But Welles did not do just that - which once again proved that he did not appear in Europe as a potential "angel world", but as a real demon of war ... MANY, alas, were fooled by the Americans ... Yevgeny Sablin wrote on March 19 from London to Vasily Maklakov: "Mr. Welles did not

have any powers, but everyone perceived him precisely as an emissary. - S.K.). ***In one of my letters I wrote to you about a young American who serves at the embassy here after five years in Moscow... I once asked him what***

the purpose of Mr. Welles' trip. He answered me in writing, and this answer I quote below:

"Take advantage of the opportunities that still remain to work out some kind of negotiated truce, if there is hope for this, before the proposed spring offensive begins ... In addition, delay the Nazi pack at least a little, as they understand that such a delay will help allies. Facilitate a solution that does not include the final defeat of the German army and therefore maintains a barrier in Eastern Europe to the penetration of Bolshevism" After this phrase is attributed in Russian "For home

usage." It's all pretty interesting."

It is unlikely that the "young American" knew that, in addition to the addressee, Sablin's letter would be read by the deputy head of the 5th department of the GUGB of the NKVD of the USSR, Sudoplatov, after some time, but the sufficient "transparency" of Russian emigration for Russian security officers was not a special secret for Western intelligence services. One way or another, the "young American" actually looked like an ordinary disinformant here - he was very "naively" laying out all the "secrets" to the Russian emigrant. However, the truth peeps through the lie, and it was that not peace was the goal of America, but such a war, which in the future would develop into a war with the USSR.

In his letter, Sablin cited the impressions of another American journalist "who is on the heels" of Welles.

And according to this journalist, Sablin wrote: ***"As for Germany, then ... the German people stand for peace, and the Germans were most interested in the question - did Somner Welles bring this peace. But ... the Germans will fight to the bitter end. They all stand as one around Hitler and support the regime. It is true that much is lacking in Germany, but the Germans endure various hardships with admirable patience. There are no indications of the possibility of uprisings, revolutions, etc. This is only in the imagination of the German Jews abroad. Everyone is sure of victory. They hope, mainly, for their own air fleet ... And for the help of Russia. They have no doubts about victory, especially since Germany is now fighting on one front for the time being, Russia is not against it, as it was***

in the last war ... But most of all, Germany wants America not to get involved in the war. However, it was

precisely through the mission of Welles that America, without yet getting directly involved in the war, fueled this very much needed war politically. For now... Direct military Lend-Lease supplies were yet to come...

Welles had to find out and found out not the prospects for concluding a European peace. After all, he was not supposed to contribute to it - peacekeeping was only the official goal of his European tour. In reality, however, his task was directly, "exactly the opposite," as mathematicians say, the opposite. A quarter of a century before his visit, "Colonel" Mandel House, then a confidant of the Golden Elite, traveled to Europe prepared for war and

then to warring Europe to inspect the ability of the Entente to independently fight the Germans.

Now it was Sumner Welles who had to determine the degree of readiness of the opposing sides for a reasonable compromise and for an end to the meaningless - for the Europeans - war.

In detail, first-hand, having familiarized himself with the state of affairs, Welles realized that the situation in Europe was developing badly for the Yankees and the overseas Golden Cosmopolitans - a "strange" war could quickly end in a reasonable world. But the Yankees were counting on a

long war. To a war that drains and weakening Europe, but enriching and strengthening the US.

If peace came, then Germany would quickly become the economic (and then political) leader of some United States of Europe in line with the German ideas of Middle Europe. England and Germany could restore and develop joint projects in the spirit of the

already half-forgotten Düsseldorf Agreement 39-

year.

The Soviet Union, friendly to Germany and becoming more and more economically strengthened, in the new situation would acquire ever greater power. Duce Italy would also be fully

involved in the new European orbits in a way that would be beneficial to Italy and Europe, not the Yankees ...

Yes, and France would have found worthy, but - no more than

legal place.

What was to be done here? It

is clear that - to strengthen the positions of the war in London and Paris and prevent the plans of the supporters of peace from being realized.

The continuation of the war could give variant results ... It could, for example, lead to a temporary victory for the Reich on continent and the associated prolongation of the war with Britain.

It was not the best option, but the important thing was that the war would continue, Europe would be exhausted, and the United States would wait in the wings - just like in the First World War.

In addition, Hitler, encouraged by continental success, could strike at Russia - which would be an ideal option in any outcome, because it would mean the disruption of all grandiose prospects for both Germans and Russians.

Possible - although unlikely, was the option of a successful long-term war of the allies with the Germans with the prospect of victory allies.

Also a good option. The allies would be exhausted and become dependent on the United States, and the Yankees would get rid of the most dangerous economic competitor with their hands, capable of bypassing the United States if circumstances were successful

for him. A variant of a war of mutual attrition was possible, in which the allies and the Germans at some point would conclude peace, but without fail with the "mediation" of the United States. There was

also the possibility of a general European aggression against the USSR, in which the United States, armed to the teeth, would have taken part ... But for any

option that suits the Yankees, a war in Europe was needed, not peace. The Frenchman

Reynaud was a figure of the war, but a figure of the background. Chamberlain and the national part of the English "upper" leaned towards

peace. It was necessary to set the British and French to continue "struggle", and for this it was necessary to bring Churchill to power ...

In France, this has already been done - the exhausted Daladier was replaced by Reynaud just as a result of Welles' visit ... But Reynaud could

only to reinforce Churchill in his fanning of the war, and not to replace his...

Accordingly, the "era of Sir Winston" was approaching ...

Welles' MISSION ensured the strategic course of the United States and the Golden International for a long European war. A review was made, potential deserters were eliminated and replaced by persistent cadres. In tactical terms, it was necessary to

provoke Hitler into a formal expansion of aggression to those countries whose very geographical position gave the Fuhrer reason to see in them a possible springboard for the Allies to wage war against him. And such countries, as we already know, were Denmark and Norway. As for

Sweden, the long tradition of deep neutrality quite reliably removed it from the sphere of mutual actions of the Germans.

and allies.

Chamberlain once said, repeating the words of Paul Reynaud, that Germany has two weak points - the supply of iron ore and oil. It was possible to hit the "iron" by blocking the supply of Swedish iron ore to Germany through Norwegian ports.

It was this action that the British began to prepare, especially since the expansion of hostilities into Norway increased the chances of continuing the war and reduced the chances for peace ... But not everyone in the world wanted peace ...

Chapter

12 "Weser exercises" and Churchill's bombs against oil Baku

The ENGLISH, as we know, indicated their interest in Norway back in the Finnish war. And you didn't have to think a lot and be a great strategist - it was enough to know a little about the economic and political geography of Europe to understand the validity of such an interest both on the part of the British and the Germans ...

And when the intervention of the allies in the Finnish war became more and more likely, Hitler and the military command immediately realized that it was urgent to prepare a plan for a preemptive operation. It was called "Weserübung" - "Teachings on the Weser", and on February 20, 1940, Hitler summoned the commander of the XXI Army Corps, General Nikolaus von Falkenhorst (the real name of this native of Silesian Breslau (Wrocław) was von Jastrzembski).

Falkenhorst-Jastrzembski was considered specialist By Scandinavia ever since, together with General von der Goltz in 1918-1920, he suppressed Soviet power in the Baltic states and Finland. On February 21, he received from

Hitler the task of developing a plan for the operation in Norway. Then there was an anecdote that he developed this plan using a travel guide, but only idlers who had no idea what it was to plan any big business, and even more so difficult and dynamic, could take this joke seriously. complex landing operation.

The German General Staff had enough of the necessary maps, and if Lieutenant General Falkenhorst held this notorious "historical" reference book in his hands, it was only in the first hours after receiving the assignment, when he wanted to think it over not in a headquarters setting, but in a comfortable hotel room over a glass of cognac. Simultaneously with the Norwegian operation, it

was also necessary to carry out the Danish one. Denmark is the peninsula of Jutland and the large and small islands densely surrounding it. In the Øresund Strait

The Danish capital Copenhagen is also located on the island. And even - on two islands connected by bridges! Most of Copenhagen is on the island of Zealand, and the smaller part is on the adjacent island of Amager. The elongated

Jutland in the southern part passes into that part of the European mainland occupied by Germany. And in its western tip, Denmark simply closes the Baltic Sea with two straits - the Kattegat and the Skagerrak, which should be remembered by a respected reader from school geography lessons.

The Danish island of Bornholm, located in the strait between Sweden and the mainland, is another unsinkable aircraft carrier in the "throat" of the Baltic. It is not surprising,

therefore, that on the same day when Halder, in his In his diary he first wrote down the name of Falkenhorst, he noted:

"Denmark: The Air Force command demands the occupation of Denmark. Deadline: Shortly after the offensive in the West yields definite results. Then as soon as possible."

And already on March 6, 1940, Halder made a new entry:

"England, like France, demanded permission from Norway and Sweden to let their troops through. The Fuhrer intends to act. By 10.03 the preparation will be completed. March 15 - Operation Weserübung begins."

The very first

directive to conduct an operation to occupy Norway and Denmark was given by the Fuhrer on March 1st. In March, however, the "Weser exercises" on the Danish Jutland Peninsula and in the Norwegian fjords were set aside ... The Finns collapsed, there was no longer any need to send troops to the Allies, there was no reason for immediate action by the Germans.

But the Weserübung was only set aside, and the need for this operation arose again very soon, because the Allies decided to mine the Norwegian straits, through which Swedish ore was delivered to Germany. English submarines had already defended themselves in the narrowness of the straits, lying in wait for German transports ...

On March 12, just the day the Soviet-Finnish treaty was signed, Chamberlain's cabinet considered plans for the military occupation of Narvik and Trondheim, and then Stavanger and Bergen. Begin

the operation was supposed to be on March 20, then it was slightly shifted, and on March 26 it was decided to carry it out on April 9.

Hitler knew about this, and thus the final date of the Weserübung was determined - the day before the British landing. And here everything was

logical - the decision of the allies programmed the decision of the Fuhrer. As early as December 16, 1939, General Halder noted in his diary: ***"The attitude towards Denmark and Norway is the same as the attitude of Russia towards Finland."***

Yes, if Finland, in the event of its military support by the West, could become a springboard for Western aggression against the USSR, then the two countries mentioned by Halder could become a similar springboard for invading Germany already or for undermining Germany's ability to continue the struggle. So it was not the aggressiveness of the

Germans, but the unwillingness the Anglo-French to end the war that only the Yankees needed.

England and France led it, so the fate of Denmark and Norway was in principle, it was resolved - the only question was who would have time before ...

The Golden Elite does not write protocols. Even Georges Clemenceau at the Paris "peace" conference of 1919 shouted: "To hell with the protocols!", Although thousands of secretaries swarmed in Versailles ...

It is unlikely that the most confidential conversations between Welles and his English confidants such as Churchill, and not just him, were recorded on paper. It was not for nothing that Churchill later tried not to mention this mission once again. And the "coincidence" of the Yankees'

stay in London with the decision of the British to provoke the expansion of the war instead of curtailing it can hardly be called accidental. Later, Churchill claimed on all corners that hesitation and

"arguing between good and worthy people" were caused by fear of violating the neutrality of Norway, but it was so - a smokescreen. The "former naval figure" learned to put them back in the First World War and was a great enthusiast of this combat technique. The vacillations in Chamberlain's cabinet and in England in general were caused precisely by the understanding by the nationally minded part of society of the obvious

fact that the occupation of Norway was a serious step towards the continuation of the war, and not towards peace.

But not only the German people wanted peace. He was wanted both in England and in France. He was also wanted in Russia, which stood aside from the war. After all, the European world meant for Russia thousands of new industrial enterprises every year! New clothing and food factories, new houses and new hospitals. Russia had an impressive peace program, and peace is needed to carry out peace programs. However,

in England, especially after being urged on and encouraging emissary Roosevelt - decided ***to continue ...***

JUST on the eve of April 8, Ivan Mikhailovich Maisky met with a good acquaintance - the Norwegian envoy in London Kolban, a man of culture and education.

Are clouds gathering over your country? Maisky asked. "Ah, it's all nonsense!" Kolban waved his hand. We have the most categorical assurances from Germany that it will respect our neutrality. Then the Norwegian

lowered his voice and added: - If I am now afraid of anything, it is the reckless actions of our English friends ... Then he explained: - Of course, you know that the

Swedish iron ore that Germany receives does not give them rest. Ore from Sweden goes to Germany in two ways: directly across the Baltic Sea and in a roundabout way - through our port of Narvik and from there along the coast of Norway in its territorial waters.

"Yes, I know that, of course," put in Maisky. "So, I heard," Kolban continued, "that the Minister of the Navy, Churchill, has long been insisting on mining our territorial waters. If they do this, the German ships will have to go to the open sea, and there they will be intercepted by the British. - Yes, the plan... - Exactly, the plan is dangerous

both for the Germans and for us Norwegians... While Chamberlain successfully resisted Churchill: after all, mining foreign waters is a violation of international law.

And what would a Norwegian diplomat say if he knew about the plans of English landings in Norwegian ports? But he had enough

he knew to sigh bitterly:

- Who knows what will happen

next? And FURTHER was this ... On April 9, at 5 o'clock in the morning, the German envoys in Copenhagen and Oslo handed memorandums to the mindless foreign ministers of Denmark and Norway, which said that from now on Germany would take over the military protection of Denmark and Norway from Anglo-French aggression and from for this purpose introduces its troops into their territory. At that time, German

ships had already been at sea for more than a day on their way to Norway ... In a note from

Denmark, the imperial government undertook not to affect the territorial integrity of the country and its political

independence.

Norway, on the other hand, Germany, on September 2, 1939, with the beginning of the "Polish" war, guaranteed neutrality, but with the proviso that Norway undertakes to strictly observe this neutrality and will not allow it to be violated by a third power.

However, Norway did not express a clear, official fear about England's plans, which her representatives abroad expressed only behind the scenes, in an undertone ... And in the note to the Norwegians,

urgently prepared by Ribbentrop, it was directly said about the preventive nature of the German action: only a preemption by Germany can prevent England from turning Scandinavia into arena of war. The note also indicated to the Norwegians that the retired 53-year-

old major of the Norwegian army Vidkun Abraham Laurits Quisling, in 1931-1933 - the Norwegian Minister of War, and now - the Fuhrer of the fascist party National Association, should be placed at the head of the Norwegian government.

The Danes took the incident calmly. 67-year-old Social Democratic Prime Minister Thorvald Stauning and King Christian X immediately issued an appeal to the people, where the Danes were informed that "the Danish government, having protested, decided to regulate the situation of the country, taking into account the occupation." The Danes were also urged not to resist the Germans and to obey the new authorities. By noon on April 9, the Kingdom of Denmark

was occupied without a single shot being fired and - accordingly - without any excesses on the part of the Germans.

Stauning remained premier but formed a new cabinet. It was different in Norway ... The Germans landed immediately in Stavanger, Bergen, Stavanger, Kristiansund, Bergen, Narvik and in Oslo itself. The huntsmen of General Falkenhorst both walked openly on the ships of the convoy, and hid in the holds of supposedly empty transports going for ore ... Oslo Fjord

- a narrow bay that goes deep into the land, has a length of more than 100 kilometers, guarded by a network of coastal batteries and bases with the main base of the Norwegian fleet - Horten.

It was not easy to get to Oslo by sea, and the Germans went there really hard ... In the advanced group, where the heavy cruiser Blucher was the leader, the Emden cruiser was damaged, and the Blucher itself received a number of damages from the fire of coastal batteries, at the end In the end, it was torpedoed by antediluvian coastal torpedoes in the Drebak area and soon sank. 125 sailors and 195 paratroopers were killed,

but 38 officers
cruisers, 985 sailors and 538 army men reached the shore.

On the Blucher was the division commander, Major General Engelbrecht, and the forward command post of the 21st Army Corps. Difficulties arose with the management ... All day on April 9, battles were going on in the Oslo fiord with new losses. But the

Luftwaffe - although also not without major failures - worked well. Oslo airport and Stavanger were raided and
landings landed.

However, the inhabitants of the Norwegian capital were informed about the German invasion not by bomb explosions - airports are not located in the center of cities, but by the sounds of a German military band, which marched through the streets of Oslo, accompanied by ... Norwegian police ...

The Germans entered Oslo at half past four in the afternoon, and at half past nine in the morning, the 68-year-old King Haakon VII, with his family and members of parliament, left the capital and headed by car towards Hamar, accompanied by 12 trucks with the gold reserves of the National Bank of Norway and three trucks with the secret archives of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The efficient air force attache of the German embassy in Oslo, Captain Eberhard Spiller (it was he who came up with the trick with the orchestra, urgently demanding it by radio) put two companies of paratroopers on buses and rushed in pursuit.

Haakon had almost no troops - the Norwegians quickly and en masse surrendered. But the Inspector General of the Infantry, Colonel Otto Rüge, hastily put together a combined detachment with a force of two battalions and set up a night ambush.

At half past one in the night, Spiller's paratroopers drove into it, suspecting nothing and not assuming any resistance, and in the very first minutes Spiller was mortally wounded. The paratroopers retreated, but

Haakon remained free and decided resist. With part

of the army, he went to the mountains to the north ... The Danish prince, although not Hamlet, but Karl, the son-in-law of the English king Edward VII, Haakon was elected king of Norway in 1905 after the annulment of the Swedish-Norwegian union of 1814 and the formation of an independent Norwegian state.

I don't know whether the thirty-three-year-old Danish aristocrat was imbued with feelings of genuine patriotism for the new homeland - in fact, in the Danish royal house they loved England more, but traditionally did not tolerate Germany. So, I don't know about Haakon, but I know that some prominent Norwegian patriots traditionally treated Germany more than loyally. One of the active fighters for the independence

of Norway was the classic of Norwegian literature, Bjornstern Bjornson, Nobel Prize winner in 1903. "Bjorn" in Norwegian is "bear", and this bearish man became the author of the words of the Norwegian anthem. They said about him: "To call his name is the same as raising the national flag" ... Bjornson, who died at almost eighty years of age in 1910, was also one of the first fighters for peace in

Europe. And this chemically pure Norwegian patriot saw peaceful Europe united at hand ... Germany ... So it wasn't only Major Quisling that mattered here ...

let him be neutral. Yes, he understood that, of course. But he clearly counted on the fact that the British would come before the Germans.

Although it would be wiser for Norway to give real guarantees to the Germans in advance, agreeing to their military presence to protect sea lanes and ports. But, one way or another, on

April 9, the Germans entered Norway and Denmark and, in fact, from that moment on, the *drole de guerre-Sitzkrieg*, that is, the "strange" and "sitting" war ended ... On April 14, the Allies

landed 160 kilometers north of Trondheim, and on the 17th - 250 kilometers south of the port of Andalsnes. And soon a uniform battle unfolded in Northern Norway - in the Narvik area ... The battles of the naval forces of

Germany and England were also very active during the month, with tangible mutual losses. On the ground, besides Narvik, the Luftwaffe and the Jaegers quite successfully coped with the convulsive resistance of the British and Norwegians. German planes landed on Norwegian airfields, the British bombed them without much success, but in general the hostilities were curtailed, and by May 5 the British began evacuating ... However, in Narvik everything ended

only by June 10, when Norwegian units with Haakon were evacuated to the British Isles.

FIVE days before the first British landing in Norway in France, in addition to the Daladier government's ban on the French Communist Party, by decree of September 26, 1939, the decree of Paul Reynaud's government on the death penalty for communist propaganda was added.

France was on the eve of collapse, but saw the main enemy in communists both outside the country and inside it ...

The Germans were also perceived as enemies. And not only by the French, but also by Russians ... More precisely, by former Russians. In January 1940, General Denikin presented Daladier with a memorandum on the Russian question, which began as follows: ***"Both pan-Germanism and communism bring slavery to the peoples. The German, Bolshevik or German-Bolshevik yoke are equally disastrous. And therefore, having raised a weapon, one cannot stop halfway, but it is necessary to put an end to both enemies forever."***

Meanwhile, in relations with Germany and the USSR, two measures and two scales are still applied: to the first - war, to the second - "normal diplomatic relations", although the USSR struck Poland in alliance with Germany and Finland - in agreement with Germany ... "

Denikin, who never calmed down, frightened Daladier with the specter of communism: "Communism is coming to Europe, which for twenty years has not met any resistance from outside," and at the end of the note he openly called for a break in relations with the Soviet Union and for a military campaign

of the allies against him ... Knowing already, how the French behaved towards us during the Finnish war, one might think that they acted according to the scheme of Anton Ivanovich. Although it was not about his recommendations - there were enough anti-communists and anti-Soviet pe

On January 24, in a detailed letter to the NKID to Molotov's deputy Potemkin, our plenipotentiary Surits, who had not yet been expelled from Paris, wrote: ***"Only the right-wingers are now setting the tone ... All parties have only one specific slogan" Destroy the Communists "... Before this slogan, Hitler also receded into the background, and the war...***

There is very little left of the vaunted "democratic freedoms"... A small protest, an expression of displeasure entails severe punishments, prison terms... A striking example is Pierre Cote, Professor Basch, those yesterday's most zealous "supporters of Moscow". Now these are people talking about the USSR with foam at the mouth

Yakov Zakharovich also reported that the Comité des Forges, an entrepreneurial committee of the metallurgical industry of France, and banking concerns openly call for the liquidation of the Soviet embassy, calling it "an institution enjoying immunity, representing the main headquarters of world communism in Paris" ... And what's interesting! Under the tales

of slavery that the Germans and the Bolsheviks would bring to the peoples, France more and more fell into the already real economic slavery imposed on it by England ... Surits wrote to Potemkin about it this way: "The processes of more and more obvious vassalization of France in relation to ***England . This is especially evident in the field of financial and economic. Meaning of the Anglo-French Economic Agreements***

lies in the desire of the British with the help of economic and financial levers to subjugate France and in political

respect."

It turned out strange - if you forget about the factor of the Golden Elite - things! Germany openly laid claim to economic leadership in Europe, and "the whole"—that is, sovereign France—because of this, went to war with her, risking her very existence and neglecting the prospects for peace. And with all that, she went into voluntary slavery to the Anglo-

Saxons and shed the blood of the French in the name of consolidating this state of affairs ... Such was the "national" policy of the French "tops", however, among the "tops" of

the English, however, such a twisted policy also became more and more obvious ... As for France, by mid-April 40th, anti-communist hysteria was already developing into anti-communist paranoia there. The entire

parliamentary group of communists of 44 people was arrested, and in March an allegedly open trial was opened at the Palace of Justice, which was difficult even for a journalist to get into. In any case, our friend, TASS correspondent Nikolai Palgunov got there with difficulty.

On the bench sat the only communist deputy, the ajudan (foreman) of the French army, Etienne Fachon, brought from the front. But even against those of his comrades who were sitting in the docks, "material" was not collected ... However, the process continued ... And the May breakthroughs of the Wehrmacht, Dunkirk and

a lot more....

Italy's declaration of war on England and France was yet to come... In the meantime,

chestnut trees were still in full bloom in Paris - the most cheerful spring month of May began. And in the north of Europe, near Narvik, fighting was still going on, and France sent the 27th Alpine semi-brigade and two battalions of the Foreign Legion to Northern Norway. On May 8, the Polish brigade, which arrived from France, also landed there.

However, a month later they all had to leave Norway ...

The IMPACT on Germany from the "iron" failed ... But there was still oil left .. Moreover, the allies decided to hit Hitler's oil "Achilles heel" by destroying ... Soviet sources of oil. However, as we will see below, the German aspect of the problem was

rather convenient for them - to deprive us of our own oil was a task that was desirable for the West in itself ...

Oil at the beginning of the 20th century was produced essentially only in the USA and in Russia. Only later were the deposits of the Middle East discovered, and now they were "saddled" by the British. And in

Russia, the Caucasus, Baku remained the main oil region ... At the beginning of

December 39, Evgeny Sablin, in the same letter of confession to Ariadne Tyrkova-Williams, about which the author had already informed the reader, wrote bitterly about the "golden" dreams of white emigrants and the Golden Elite : ***“But the offensive*** (on the

USSR - S.K.) ***could have been thought up striking and very effective. Judge for yourself. Germans from the west, Japanese from the east, British to the Caucasus, Romanians to Odessa, Persians to Azerbaijan ... The Allied command could immediately instruct Germany to occupy air bases on Dago, on Ezel, in the Baltic port, in Revel (respectively, the islands of Hiiumaa, Saaremaa, ports Paldiski and Tallinn - S.K.). The same Germans could capture Libava and Vindava. It would be possible to establish several more aviation bases: in St. Petersburg for the Finns and for them in Murmansk, then along the line St. Petersburg - Novgorod - Vitebsk - Mogilev - Chernigov - Kiev - Poltava - Odessa, establish a Japanese base on Lake Baikal, etc ... "***

The old Russian diplomat from the Novochoerkassk noblemen Cossacks did not even know that he was describing almost the operational plans of some influential strength...

He did not know that his assessments in real time would become known to the NKVD of the USSR, and therefore to Stalin ... But this is so, by the way ... As for the

plans, they really existed not only in Sablin's bitter fantasies ...

IN THE SAME December 1939, Lord Chatfield, Minister for the Coordination of Defense, brought to the Joint Chiefs of Staff a report "On the vulnerability of the oil-producing regions of

Russia." The meeting of the Union Council looked solid. Generals Gamelin, Wavell and Weigan, Admirals Darlan and Cunningham flew to London. Churchill was also present.

Weigan commanded the French troops in Syria and Lebanon, Wavell commanded the British in the Middle East. Cunningham flew the flag of His Royal Majesty's Commander of the Eastern Mediterranean Fleet. "So, gentlemen,"

Churchill was in high spirits and made no secret of it, "I am glad to greet the entire color of the combined allied forces. Please, Chatfield... "There are three main oil production centers in the

USSR: Baku, Grozny and Maykop," Chatfield began. - If Russian oil fields are bombed from the air, not only Russia, but also Germany will lose oil - Aviation General Bergeret from the French Air Force Headquarters chewed his lip: - How easy is it to destroy them in a series of raids? - These

developments are of a gushing type and therefore can be easily destroyed. We plan to bomb Baku from airfields in Igdir and Ardabil in Iran and from Kars in Turkey. The maximum radius is 360 miles, the minimum is 144 ... From Kars and Trabzon we also easily get to Grozny and Maykop. In addition, we cover them from Irandibi, the maximum radius is 516 miles ...

A satisfied silence hung in the air. The generals looked at the admirals, the admirals looked at the generals, and everyone looked at Churchill

and Chatfield. "So, Douai's doctrine in action?" - broke the silence Churchill. — How far have these general plans been worked out?

"Now we are finally bringing together the two plans," General Bergeret rose easily and walked to the map. — Your "MA-6" and our "RIP".

According to our calculations, one hundred planes are enough for this. Five groups of American-made Glenn Martins and four groups of Blenheims. Combined chanting - from different heights, day and night. We allot fifteen days for the destruction of Baku, twelve days for Grozny, and one and a half days for Batumi. air defense at

Russians are very weak here, so it will be possible to act calmly and methodically...

— And then?

- After? Gamelin called back from his seat like an echo. "Even our Le Figaro openly wrote last autumn that the Russians have three weak spots on the flanks: the Baltic states and Finland from the north, the Caucasus and Vladivostok from the south... Let's forget about Vladivostok for now and focus our attention on the other two weak flanks. In the south, the mobile group of troops of the Levant is now preparing. For Finland we equip an expeditionary corps: one hundred thousand English and fifty French. We are attacking the Russians from the south from the region of the Middle East," Gamelin bowed towards Weigan and Wavell, "and from the north from the territory of Scandinavia and Finland. The general direction of both strikes is towards Moscow.

- And the backbone of the USSR is broken! - summed up Weigan ... However, not everyone cheered. Darlan sighed and inquired cautiously:

— And if the Finns can't stand it? - It

doesn't matter much. Even if the Russians beat them, we can always force Stalin to abandon the occupation of Finland. So the bridgehead will remain. At the right moment, we land troops in Petsamo, go to Kandalaksha, cut the Murmansk-Leningrad railway and, threatening Leningrad, go to Moscow. - And Hitler? Churchill sniffed and replied: - Admiral, it is unlikely that in this case we will have to be afraid of Hitler. Now we

are standing

with Germany against each

other, and we are separated by the Maginot Line. Hitler will not pass through it. And if we squeeze the throat of Russia in Moscow, then the Fuhrer will not waste time. He will immediately reach into the pockets of Ukraine. Well, we don't mind. On the other hand, France would get peace, England would get Turkestan, the borders of Iran and Turkey would move deep into the shores of the Caspian Sea, and Italy would have its share in oil ...

ON JANUARY 19, 1940, the governments of England and France instructed General Gamelin, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces in France, and Darlan, Commander-in-Chief of the French Navy, to finalize the plan for a direct invasion

to the Caucasus. In this campaign it was supposed to take Yugoslavia, Romania and Turkey

with them. The invasion troops were supposed to destroy the Soviet oil fields and move "towards the armies advancing from Scandinavia and Finland to Moscow" ... And on January 24,

General Ironside said at a cabinet meeting: - We will be able to provide effective assistance to Finland only if we attack Russia as far as possible with more directions and, most importantly, we will strike at Baku ... In general, Ironside was ready to act according to the scheme of the Russian

a soldier from a fairy tale who cooked porridge from an ax ...

At first, he asked the greedy grandmother for a pot, water and an ax, and then, when the water boiled, he gradually fished out a little salt from the old woman - for taste, cereals - again "for taste", and only in the end - and butter ... In

"porridge" brewed by such plans, Finland is just the role of the "axe" was assigned, from which the "porridge" was just beginning ...

On February 26, Halder wrote: ***"France wants to help Finland by attacking Baku (?!). The Turks don't want to get involved."***

In fact, Weygand negotiated with the chief of the Turkish General Staff, Marshal Chakmak, and the French ambassador in Ankara, Massigli, reassured the general that there would be no obstacles from the Turkish government in organizing an attack on the USSR. However, already on March

27, the British emissary Morgan reported from Ankara that at the present time the Turks could not be forced to join the attacks on Baku. No wonder - after all, at the insistence of the Turks, a clause was specially introduced into their agreement with the Anglo-French that the undertaken obligations "cannot force Turkey to act, the result or consequence of which will be its involvement in an armed conflict with the USSR."

And the Turks realized in time that their participation would mean their offensive war against the USSR. And how it would end - only Allah knew ... The Shah of Iran hesitated ...

His German friends were now friends with the Russians. However, if the Russians were seriously attacked from all

sides, then maybe the Fuhrer would not be offended if Iran helps the Anglo-Saxons to topple the Russian bear? In the end, he still

refused permission to fly

British bombers through Iranian territory.

On February 3, the command of the French air force was instructed to prepare for the bombing of Soviet oil fields, and on March 20, 1940, in Syrian Aleppo, Weygand reported to Gamelin that twenty airfields of the first category would be ready by June. Five squadrons of Martin bombers from bases in northeastern Syria were to strike at targets in Batumi and

Grozny. The targets had colorful code names - Berlioz, Cesar Franck and Debussy. The Royal Air Force allocated four groups of Bristol Blenheim bombers As early as the beginning of January 1940, the planning subcommittee of the Chiefs of Staff Committee drew up a plan with an expressive title - "Military consequences of declaring war on Russia."

The 12-page plan contained the main idea: ***"German policy is to receive maximum economic assistance to Russia. By starting a war with Russia, we are delivering an indirect blow to Germany."*** An idea quite worthy of the "angel of the world" Welles

himself! In an updated form, the draft was again considered on March

1. And on March 27 in London, the Anglo-French top generals discussed the issues of a possible blockade of the Black Sea and, again, air bombing of the Caucasian oil fields and oil refineries.

factories.

On March 28, this plan was approved in principle by the Supreme Union Council at its sixth meeting. In fact, it was at this meeting that Paul Reynaud told Chamberlain that the Germans had two weak points - the need for ore and oil, and that a strike on Baku was a reliable, decisively important and easy operation. - What about the Turks? Chamberlain asked anyway. "I don't care about them. I'm ready to ignore any of them

objections to the operation, which they were not notified in advance.

That is, Reino was ready to drag the Turks into conflict with us even without their

knowledge. On March 30, a reconnaissance variant of the civilian Lockheed 14 Super-Electra from the RAF 224 Squadron, with pilots dressed in civilian clothes and with fake documents, took off from the military airfield in Habbani to take pictures of Baku. The flight was successful. However, the success

of the second sortie on April 5 to Batumi was prevented by the shelling of the Elektra by our anti-aircraft gunners. But the Batumi port was partially captured on film ... And on

April 17, Weigan announced that the preparation of the air strike would be completed by the end of June - the beginning of July. However, the allies wanted to, and pricked. After all, the fear of our retaliatory air strikes on communications and facilities in the Middle East also played its role ... But the oil for

the British fleet came primarily from there.
Yes, and only for the fleet!

The British and French hesitated, and twenty-three days remained before Hitler's attack on France through the Benelux, bypassing the Maginot Line ... And after that, the allies had no time for Baku - their sides would soon crack under Dunkirk ... WE have about all

these tempting for Golden The elites knew the plans, although not to the extent that it should have been ... However, on March 6, Halder noted:

"South-East. The Russians should be given our materials about the accumulation of forces of the Western powers in the Middle East "...

February 1940, information came from the Tassovite Palgunov. Somehow, breakfast time - in France it is between noon and two o'clock - he happened to be in a restaurant near the War Office. The restaurant had excellent fish cuisine, and in its small cozy hall one could quite feast on what Palgunov was doing ...

Soon a grey-moustached lieutenant colonel with the appearance of a front-line soldier and two staff majors sat down at the next table. The lieutenant colonel asked, the majors answered, but nothing significant slipped through the conversation.

And suddenly one of the majors lowered his voice - which did not prevent Palgunov from hearing, and said:

But Duran was unlucky. He was assigned to Maxim. - How to Maxim, - the lieutenant colonel was frightened, - to Wayne? Yes, to Damascus. Units are being formed there for the operation against Baku.

-

Quiet! They can hear! - And let them listen - it will soon cease to be a secret. All will take place in two or three weeks, by mid-March ... And a couple of days later, a well-known neutral journalist came to Palgunov and told about the plans for an attack on Baku about the same that Palgunov had heard in a restaurant ... NKVD

interceptions also gave similar information. So, the emigrant Sablin informed the emigrant Maklakov on March 19 about rumors about the bombing of Baku crafts and the movement of the allied armies from Syria and Mosul ... But in general, the information

was contradictory ... During the April meeting of the highest command staff, Stalin reproached the head of the Intelligence Directorate Proskurov: London - Black ... - This is not an

agent, but an air force attache, - Proskurov clarified.

- Well ... He wrote that in a few days there would be a big air raid on Baku.

Six days

have passed. It's been two, three weeks, and

there is nothing...

But he is an honest man! -

Yes, I do not argue ... But now he reports that the allies are introducing 12 thousand colored troops into Romania. And I say it can't be! He may be an honest man, but a fool! "Comrade Stalin,"

Proskurov pleaded, "we are in a difficult conditions ...

And Stalin continued: -

You sent him, so let him report that, according to some information, there will be a raid on Baku, I will give the details later, and these data are preliminary and are being checked ... But it's not long to substitute disinformation ... Stalin sighed and added: "I'm afraid if your agents

continue to work like this, then

nothing will come of their work ...

Yes, the data were contradictory, and the Allied operation against us was adventurous and, at first glance, not very justified. After all, we then supplied the Germans with only 9,000 tons of oil, and Romania had the bulk of the total German oil imports of 523,000 tons during the three months of the war - 227,000 tons. Oil went to the Reich from the General

Government and the protectorate, from Hungary, Belgium, Holland and even from the USA ... That is, it was not us who supplied

the Germans with oil, but it was still tempting for the Golden Elite to hit Soviet oil under the "German" pretext. And this was clear even without Cherniy's chaotic reports. In the spring report of the Committee of Chiefs of Staff, it was

emphasized that in the USSR 80 percent of production and 65 percent of processing capacities are concentrated precisely in the Caucasus. And a strike on Russia in this place was so desirable that the secret plans were not very secret! After all, back on October 23, 1939, the Parisian Figaro, to which Gamelin referred, "reflected":

"There are three areas on the flanks of the USSR that can cause serious reasons for his concern. In the north - the Baltic states and Finland ... In the south - the Caucasus, where there are many vulnerabilities ... And, finally, Vladivostok in the Far East, which is a revolver directed against our Japanese friends, which they would always like to neutralize."

From the moment these lines were written, the northern problem was somehow solved, but the Caucasian flank had to be guarded - just like the Far East. The Japanese,

offended by the Germans and in conflict with us, favorably listened to the ideas of a new Anglo-Japanese military alliance. Its orientation would have been traditional, defined at the beginning of the century, that is, anti-Russian, anti-Soviet ... Although for Japan the benefits in it would be more than doubtful, especially given

the increasing subordination of British policy to US interests. Yes, the situation was "flammable" literally and figuratively

sense of the word...

PERVOMAYSKY order of the People's Commissar of Defense of the USSR Marshal of the Soviet Union Voroshilov was devoted, of course, primarily to the victory over the Finns. But it was said there and this:

“The war of the Anglo-French bloc against Germany is expanding and is gradually capturing new states and new peoples into its orbit ... The

imperialist warmongers have tried and will try more than once to turn the edge of the war against the Soviet Union. This makes us always on the alert...” We were on the alert,

but lived under a peaceful sky. And in Europe, events were about to take on a character that was both kaleidoscopic and, for some, catastrophic...

On May 7 and 8, a stormy parliamentary debate began in England, entirely devoted to discussing the course of the

war ... On May 7, the 450-seat hall of the House of Commons was packed, and many deputies - there were only 600 of them - crowded in the aisles and in the gallery for the public. The English parliament traditionally has 450 seats, and even the construction of a new parliament building after the fire of 1834 did not increase this number.

Everyone was excited, except for the keynote speaker, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. He was lethargic and boring, immersed in trifles... His fellow conservatives also languidly sometimes cried out: “Listen! Listen!”... The Premier

was replaced by Labor leader Attlee, one of Welles' recent confidants. He stormily called for a war not for life, but for death and exclaimed: - We cannot leave the fate

of the country in the hands of losers or people who need rest ... Not a single bomb had fallen on England at

that time, and Attlee's pathos was generally - something is poorly understood, but the press has already "warmed up" the audience to the desired "degree", and Attlee eagerly applauded.

However, a storm of applause was ripped off by Leopold Emery ... - It's time to create a truly national government,” he broadcasted ...

If we consider that a truly national government would have ended the war long ago and even more - would not have started it at all, then

what was said sounded like a direct mockery ... But how many in this hall understood

this? And Emery

went on: "I will quote Cromwell's words to the Long Parliament. He then said, "You have been sitting too long to be able to do good. Leave, and let it be done with you. In the name of God, leave!"... The hall exploded, from all

sides it rushed: "Listen! Listen! "... The fate of Chamberlain's cabinet was decided ... It finally became clear on May 8 ... On that day, Ivan

Mikhailovich Maisky, leaving parliament, where he watched everything from the "ambassadors' gallery", met Attlee's deputy -

Greenwood. Greenwood was terribly excited and smiled

happily. "Well," he exclaimed, "at last we got rid of Chamberlain! And he

shook Maisky's hand firmly... On

MAY 10, Chamberlain's government resigned. In addition to Reynaud on the Continent, the war now has its main European leader, Winston Churchill....

Chapter

13 Dunkirk

On MAY 5, 1940, the British almost left Norway, and before the complete withdrawal, that is, the evacuation of Narvik, there was also little time left - a little over a month.

But by May they began to build up their expeditionary force in France. Arras became its headquarters ...

Arras, the birthplace of Robespierre, the center of the historical region of Artois and lace making, is a charming town in the north of France. As usual in those places, the small town had a big history. It passed from the hands of the counts of Flanders to France, then became the possession of the dukes of Burgundy and the Habsburgs, and again retreated to France. Ten years later, it was again taken from France by the Habsburgs. Finally, after a long siege, Arras was occupied by King Louis XIII, so well known to us from the adventures of d'Artagnan. True, Arras remained behind the French crown only in the Iberian world - after twenty years. The peace of Utrecht brought the final confirmation—sixty-six years later, that is, in the year 1713.... However, the journalists who gathered here in early May

1940 had no time for history - General Pownell, chief of staff of Lord Gort, commander of the British Expeditionary Force in France, was holding a press conference. The general was confident and frank:

“Gentlemen, Hitler's attack on Norway

ended that “twilight”, “strange” war

that our Churchill criticized so much. It flared up with a dazzling flame of such a terrible military explosion, which mankind has not yet known. The Nazis were ahead of us in Norway, but the failure of Trondheim and the impasse of Narvik will not be repeated! Moreover, I do not consider it necessary to hide from you that we are preparing unpleasant surprises for the Corporal. And, by the way, not only him ...

“General,” the Le Figaro journalist was elegant and caustic, “didn’t your valiant soldiers think this flame was so

hot because it burned in the cold mountains and near the North Sea? I remember that a little over twenty years ago, on the Somme and near Reims, the fire was also not small?

But Pownell did not blunder:

- Monsieur, is it worth it? Soon it will be hot for everyone, but chestnuts on this fire, we will fry for you together ... The

Times correspondent Kim Philby did not get involved in verbal duels ... Preferring specific information, he immediately seized on the general's reticence and asked:

- Sir, and who is it - if it's not a secret, do you intend to "please" with surprises?

"Oh, gentlemen, London has decided that Bolshevik assistance to Hitler can no longer be tolerated. The Russians supply the Fuhrer with nickel from Petsamo, wheat from the Ukraine and oil from Baku. It's time to put an end to this, and we will soon disrupt the Germans' oil supply by disabling the Baku oil fields ... Plus strikes on Grozny and Maikop. There was a pause in the air, and

only someone from the corner whistled loudly ... But Philby was calm and persistent: - And then what? "Firstly, we are depriving Hitler of the

Russian carburetor that feeds the Nazi engine ... And secondly ..." the general paused meaningfully, "given the power of the Siegfried Line, a strike through the Caucasus can open up better prospects. If successful, he would breach Germany's weak eastern defense system and open the way for an Allied offensive. And from here we will also give in. So I repeat, gentlemen: enough heat ...

WE, DEAR READER, already know very well that such plans were seriously considered by England. And the USSR could now receive additional confirmation of this from the report of Kim Philby, an employee of the Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff of the Red Army.

Five days before the Prime Minister of England, Winston Churchill, while waiting for the full power over the war to be given to him, thought. And in May 1940, he thought about many things, including these "Russian" plans ... Thoughts

about a campaign against Russia during the European war were pleasant. After all, all his public hopes for a possible "Eastern

front" of Russia against Germany was explained not by love for the Russians, but, on the contrary, by hatred for them.

In general, he did not like Russians, but he simply hated Soviet Russians, who raised their hand on the privileges of an elite minority - fiercely, like a greedy dog hates, ready at any moment to grab the throat of someone who deprives her of a fat piece ...

Memories of youth came, of the times when Britain, for the first time in history, almost laid its lion's paw on the Russian Caucasus, and at the same time on the Russian North.

How many hopes were then, how much work. Baku

then teased many. In the summer of the 18th (it was a good summer, a successful one!) Dashnaks helped Britain enter the capital of the Caspian Sea, but did not help to keep it. In September, the Turks and the Germans settled, and they had to leave, taking with them 26 Baku commissars. On the

way, they were not able to get rid of them deftly. Sand, although it flows like water, is still not water, and it is more difficult to hide the ends in it. Well, General Johnson and Captain Teague-Jones, maybe then they overdid it with these commissioners ...

Although, how do you know? Two months later, we managed to return, and if all these Shaumyans and Violets had not been removed in time ... After all, even without them, not even a year had passed, the intervention had to be curtailed. And

it seemed that the new colony - here it is ... And what a!

And behind these thoughts about the summer of the 18th year, they somehow forgot unpleasant events of the times already present ...

Well, let's say - the British Navy. No doubt - he is great and powerful. He has undeniable prestige. However, when this fleet came to Alexandria during Mussolini's Abyssinian campaign to warn the Duce against ill-conceived steps, he could only "salute" the Italians with blanks, because he didn't take live shells with him ... However, the embarrassment here was small. Mussolini are not Russians. WITH

he can fight and single.

Or here's another ... Whineers poke in the nose - they say, in the British army, officers set the tone, who, more than twenty years after the first massive use of tanks near Cambrai, still consider the cavalry to be the main striking force.

What nonsense! Weren't those tanks British? And doesn't the word "tank" itself belong to the English language? True, now tank divisions were only being created in the British army, so what? The French have enough tanks, and they look at them as if they were servants of the infantry. So you can take your time with your own tank divisions ...

Of course, the Germans in Poland proved that a tank wedge knocks out infantry famously. But France is not Poland. You can't take the "Maginot Line" with weak tank guns of German tanks ... Of course, there is a way around Belgium and Holland ... But there you can put barriers...

Hitler behaved unexpectedly and agreed with the Russians. And they agreed with him. Well, that means it's time to hit the Russians too. And make them the scapegoat for everything. Yes, it was both real and timely. And to hell with him, with Hitler - it's never too late to get his hands on him ...

The main thing is that the time comes to deal with Bolshevism, with Stalin and with the Russians in general, who imagine themselves to be a great power ... And when there is success, it will be possible to negotiate with Hitler. However, then he will hit Russia himself. After all,

Ukraine and the Baltics are a natural zone of German influence.

Churchill recalled the time of Halifax's negotiations with the Duce in January 1939 ... Mussolini then, as

if in passing, began to philosophize out loud: - One can only regret that the two strongholds of the creative European spirit may turn out to be not allies, but enemies. In a conversation with you, I am not the head of the nation, but just a political dreamer ... If you want, a journalist who is drawn to an interview. Probably, this has remained in me since the days of Popolo d'Italia ...

Mussolini tossed his head, remembering his youth, then moved to reality:

"So, dear Halifax, we know each other well, you know England and the English well... You yourself are a model of an Englishman. How, in your opinion, would the English nation and its leadership react to the fact that Germany decided to move to the East?

The Duce looked at Halifax with a searching look from under his brows: -

Don't misunderstand me - I'm not driven by fear for Italy. I am not inclined to fight either with France or with you. But the Fuhrer is not only my political ally, but also a personal friend... You know that he is capable of the most unexpected decisions. Between us - even on adventures. I am afraid that he, relying on your gentlemanly behavior, would not open the Eastern Front against the Bolsheviks ... Will he be punished with a stab in the back? It seems to me that this would be a rash step on the part of the West. After all, Bolshevism is our common and main enemy, isn't it? Halifax smiled knowingly with

only the corners of his lips. And Mussolini was persistent: - So, my dear Halifax, will you

answer the question of a poor journalist about the plans of my great friend? If he has them, of course, - I'm just thinking right now! And my interview with you, alas, will not bring me a well-deserved fee. It will remain only in my memory. Halifax smiled sparingly again, touched his left hand, which had

been inactive since childhood, with his right hand, and said: "England is a lady." Women like the actively

offensive actions of men, but subject to secrecy. So be tactful and we won't mind... CHURCHILL was not a minister at the time, but Halifax relayed the conversation to him just as he had to

Chamberlain. And he didn't pass it on because of great friendship - in fact, they couldn't stand each other. However, Halifax did not rule out that Churchill could become prime minister - Chamberlain was already over seventy. And Chamberlain did not trust his secrets to Winston ... Edward Wood, heir to vast land holdings and an aristocrat to the marrow of

his bones, who became Lord Halifax, knew this very well, because he had known Neville Chamberlain for more than twenty years. Now Churchill was preparing to become prime minister and wondered if it was possible

to negotiate with Hitler against Stalin? My eyes fell on an old book... On the cover it was embossed in gold: "WS The World crisis. The aftermath. 1929"...

«The aftermath...» - the second mowing, aftermath...

Yes, now the world crisis is back again. And the aftermath has grown again, you can start a new mowing again ...

Churchill took the book in his hands, leafed through the pages he had written ten years ago: ***“Were the Allies at war with Soviet Russia? Of course not. But they shot at the Soviet people as soon as they caught their eye. They were on Russian soil as conquerors. They armed the enemies of the Soviet government. They blocked his ports. They sank his warships. They passionately desired his death and made plans for his destruction.*”**

The book was closed... But a new page of the old stories. Churchill wrote "they", but he meant something - "I".

Yes, this is him, he did a good job in that undeclared war against the Soviet people, organizing an intervention against the Bolsheviks. It's time to prepare a new one - again against the Bolsheviks ...

But with whom to prepare it? Churchill smiled, remembering his wife's recent complaint: "I always feel disappointed when I see that you are inclined to allow the rough steel fist of the" Hun "mode of action to prevail" ...

Women like, of course, well-groomed hands and velvet gloves, but ... But why not a "Hun" fist?

If only it was steel! Churchill

smiled, and then even laughed - at himself. Hypocrisy has become a habitual and common thing for him so long ago that he sometimes hypocrites even alone with his thoughts - that's how it is now. Of course, chestnuts

for those whom Churchill faithfully served from an early age, for those who were and remain the true owners of this small but cozy planet, will have to be carried by the “Huns”. After all, this was decided a long time ago and

decided without Churchill. Well, then - so be it! The only question here is whether to push

the Führer to the Soviet East in the back alone, or still go there with him arm in arm, for a start putting him before the fact of the smoking ruins of Baku and Grozny ...

On MAY 10, 1940, the time for reflection for the author of The World crisis was over... King George VI invited Sir Winston Churchill to Buckingham Palace and instructed him to form a new cabinet. Halifax was another option for the British, but Halifax could, from some point on, lead a national policy, that is, make peace with Germany. And therefore, from the point of view

of the Golden Elite, Churchill was unopposed. After all, Churchill and only Churchill - it was definitely a war! In addition, the wartime regime provided for some

of the powers that be completely unique business opportunities - I will talk about this soon. A convenient pretext for rejecting Halifax was provided by

Attlee, a Labor member. He suddenly refused to enter the coalition cabinet of the conservative Halifax, but he agreed to enter the cabinet of the conservative Churchill. And entered - as Lord Privy Seal. And Churchill on May 13 (some people love dark symbols!)

told members of the House of Commons:

- I can offer you nothing but blood, hardships and tears ... You ask: what is our goal? I will answer in one word - victory! Victory at any cost... If we don't win, we will have to say goodbye to our way of life... So, Churchill's goal was victory, not peace...

not a single German bomb. And the "national" prime minister has already promised his fellow citizens only blood and

tears...

As for the way of life, without which there was no life for Churchill, I will also say what Sir Winston meant by it not in public speeches, but, say, in an intimate friendly letter ...

Churchill loved to speak and knew how to do it, although there were so many lies and false pathos in his speeches that they could delight only lovers of form, but not content ... On January 27, 1940, he gave a speech in the Free Trade Hall in Manchester:

"For five months now we have been waging war against the greatest military force in the world and against the greatest air force in the world ... In September, when the war broke out, many of us assumed that very soon our cities would be destroyed and burned by explosions and fires ...

It would seem, since this did not happen, it was possible to draw a reasonable conclusion about the unwillingness of Hitler and the Germans to embitter the island neighbors and, consequently, about their inclination for peace ... But Churchill led to something

else: - There has never been a war
that would have so realistically threatened
with its horrors to every house ...

This was already pure provocation, but then the speaker simply
still lied:

"This war is not one that is conceived and unleashed by the government, class or party... On the contrary, the government made every effort to ensure peace... This war was conceived and unleashed by the Golden International in the

name of the Golden Elite, but could "brother" Winston, a member United Steadholme
Masonic Lodge since May 24, 1901, recognize this? And he said otherwise:

"Now is not the time to live easy and carefree.... That is why we limit ourselves, despite the fact that our resources are growing ... Well, Churchill's resources really grew. In the days of the

speech, he was just working off an advance of 20 thousand pounds sterling received from the publisher for writing (or rather for directing the writing) of the History of the English-speaking peoples. Well, the fact that his son Randolph played a magnificent wedding was, of course, just a "trifle" ... Churchill's January speech was filled with stories about the "Nazi horrors" in Poland, but none of his examples prudently had an exact time and geographical reference - instead, he used

the word "tell" ... If we recall that even three months after Churchill's denunciations in Krakow, the best houses were completely inhabited not even by Poles, but by Jews, then even here it became clear that Churchill was simply provoking ordinary British ...

However, he surpassed himself in hypocrisy when he said: -

In our country, public figures are proud of being servants of the people. They would be ashamed to be masters over him.

Churchill himself was clearly not threatened by such a prospect due to his complete lack of a sense of natural shame. Instead, the failed Duke of Marlborough from the cradle, with the milk of a nurse, absorbed a sense of elitist superiority and a sense of the right to be among the elect ... In 1906, barely over thirty years old, he temporarily defected from the Tories to the Liberals in order to retain his seat in Parliament. He kept it, and now, once in the slums of Manchester, he wrote to his personal secretary Edward Marsh: ***“Imagine that you live in these streets ... This means that you never see anything beautiful, you never eat anything tasty and have smart conversations...”***

Young Churchill, precisely because of his extreme self-confidence, did not understand how much he exposed himself then ... To be in front of everyone and show off, eat deliciously, drink and rhetoric - that was his true life credo. Not knowledge, not a scientific or social search, not a transformation of the world for the better, but delicious, sorry, grub at a beautifully set table, seasoned with subtle conversation in an exquisite circle ... For the sake of this true ideal of

the Golden Elite, this war was started. For his sake, Churchill had to

continue it ... Especially since it provided such opportunities!

Well, for example, here they are ... 60-year-old

Lord Beaverbrook became

Minister of the Aviation Industry in Churchill's cabinet. The aviation industry on the Island was well developed, but its concentration and centralization were weak - there was no truly mass production. There was, accordingly, no reduction in the cost of production, and hence no increase in profits. And the turnover of products was weak - planes are not bought every day, but they serve for more than one year. Another thing is war. She demands thousands, tens of thousands

quickly

out of action of the same type of aircraft!

And this is how Beaverbrook solved the problem of expansion and unification production in the context of the expansion of the war ...

Lord Nuffield's aircraft factory was located in Oxford, and the new minister immediately began to act. Calling the secretary, he ordered:

"Go to Oxford at once and inform Nuffield that from tomorrow his enterprise will be amalgamated with that of Vickers. "But Lord Nuffield did not consent to it!" the

secretary was horrified. "He's so stubborn and...so rich!" - I decided so ... This is in the interests of the war and, therefore, the

nation. "But the lord will never agree with your decision, sir!" - It's my business! Go to Oxford. "Sir, the last train to Oxford has already left. - Take the car. "But by car I will arrive there after midnight!" The Lord will sleep... - Nothing! Wake up and say that from tomorrow he

merged with Vickers... But

there is no government decision on such a merger! — Calm down!

By the time you get to Oxford, the prime minister will sign

it. And Churchill signed ... The question is: was it possible to eliminate competitors in peacetime in this way? That's it ...

ENGLAND was being prepared for a long war of "blood and tears" in the name of strengthening the United States, while the United States itself was habitually hypocritical and hypocritical at that time ... Roosevelt spoke on national radio: - The war is expanding through

the fault of Germany, - the FDR broadcast, - and I'm afraid it will spread even further. And in this case, America will no longer be able to stand aside ... He "warned" Italy and again blamed Germany.

Roosevelt's statement prompted an exchange of letters between the Fuhrer and the Duce. Mussolini wrote that the expansion of hostilities was the fault of the Western Allies and that he understood that Germany was against any expansion. Italy - too ... The Duce explained, however:

“No peace is possible without resolving the fundamental questions of Italy's freedom. Italy is ready, if the situation permits, and subject to the recognition of real and accomplished facts, to contribute to a more correct organization of the

world. In a reply letter dated May 5, Hitler, regretting that the British did not come forward with larger forces, reported that operations were completed in the south and central part of Norway and now the northern part was being cleared ...

Regarding Roosevelt's speech, he remarked:

“I believe that all Roosevelt's more frequent threatening notes are reason enough to prudently and as quickly as possible end the war.

But how could this war be put to an end if the other side did not want to make peace. After all, since the outbreak of hostilities on September 1, 1939, the Allies have never turned to Germany with a proposal of at least some kind of peace, not to mention an honest peace, that is, recognizing the simple fact that all the ugly, historically unnatural products of the Versailles system must be liquidated. Created by Versailles in the form in which they were created, Poland and Czechoslovakia; Austria, which does not have the right to voluntary reunification with the rest of the Germans, Germany, deprived of adequate world markets for the results of its industriousness - all this could and should have been eliminated by a just world. And the Anglo-French did not offer any at all. The overseas Anglo-Saxons, while

chattering about peace, threatened that they would soon join

allies.

What was Hitler to do in this situation, if not what he wrote to the Duce about - prudently and as soon as possible to end the war? And on that day, May 10, when Churchill

received a mandate for war,
Hitler finally ***hit...***

On the eve of May 9 at noon, he, together with Keitel and personal adjutant von Bülow, under the protection of agents of the criminal police and the security service, went to the Berlin Frankenberg station of a small railway station in Grunewald, where a special squad was already waiting for him. At 16.48 the train with the strictest

secrets went towards Hamburg. Even the majority of those "initiated" into the secret were sure that the Fuhrer had just gone on an inspection trip to visit units in Denmark and Norway. And only the really initiated knew where he was going in reality. With the onset of darkness, the train, instead of going north, turned west and at three in the morning was already in Aachen - a border town near the border with Belgium ...

Hitler was in a great mood on the way, he joked a lot at dinner in the dining car, and his animation was conveyed to everyone. I didn't want to sleep - everyone was waiting for events.

The train stopped at a small station near Oysenkirchen, and from there a cavalcade of three-axle Mercedes under a clear starry sky moved to the Fuhrer's new field headquarters, Felsenest (Rocky Nest). We did not go long and in half an hour we were on place.

A carefully disguised headquarters in the form of a bunker camp was built by the Todt organization far from populated areas. Hitler ordered that everything be as simple as possible. And Todt found suitable positions for an anti-aircraft battery on the territory of Westphalia near Munstereifel, where secret work soon unfolded.

Now, at a small headquarters, where his entire small operational headquarters with the entire staff gathered in a barrack-dining room at a table of 20 people, Hitler was no longer to lead a "sitzkrieg", but a "blitzkrieg" against France and the British expeditionary corps. At 0535, units of the

Wehrmacht, without declaring war, entered the territory of Holland and Belgium, capturing Luxembourg as well.

As in the First World War, this was such a logical step for the Germans that one could only be surprised at the fake surprise and indignation of "world public opinion" about this option of action against "sovereign neutral countries", over whose airspace, however, military aircraft Allies have been flying for a long time. Belgium as an "independent" state arose in 1830 ... These lands - have long been densely populated and well developed -

were under the rule of Spain, and the Austrian monarchy of the Habsburgs, and France ... After the fall of Napoleon, by decision of the Congress of Vienna in 1815, Belgium was united with Holland into a single kingdom of the Netherlands with the Dutch king William I at the head. In 1830, after the Belgian Revolution and the meetings of the London Conference of the five great powers - England, France, Russia, Austria and Prussia, an independent kingdom was proclaimed, headed by a relative of the English queen - Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, who became King Leopold I. In 1831 the same London conference declared the "eternal neutrality" of Belgium in the event of war ... Although is there anything eternal in this best of all worlds, except for the arrogance of the haves and the stupidity

of the have-nots? Yes, a lot of water has flowed since then, blood on the battlefields, sweat and tears of peoples, as well as ink from official inkwells ... France and Austria have grown decrepit, Prussia became the basis of the German Empire, which in 1938 reunited with Austria ...

And now this new Germany, in identical notes, handed over to the governments of Belgium and Holland after the invasion, reproached both "neutral" countries (and rightly so!) That their defensive actions were directed only against Germany, and also that The General Staffs of both countries cooperate with allies.

The Germans declared that they did not want to wait for the Allied attack on Germany through Belgium and Holland and would begin preventive actions.

And now the "democratic press" simply didn't know, stigmatizing Hitler ... Yes, all this could

only be surprised! First, in March, Count Ciano told two people in Rome about Hitler's fundamental strategic plans - the French ambassador Francois Poncet and Sumner Welles. Secondly, and the tactical surprise was not so sudden - the

conspiring colonel Oster committed an act of outright treason, informing the Dutch military attache in Berlin, Colonel Sas, about the upcoming attack on Holland and further ...

Thirdly, the Allies did not hesitate for a long time - whether to violate the neutrality of Belgium for them, but simply at 6 hours 45 minutes on May 10, the 1st

The French army group of General Billott and the British Expeditionary Force were ordered to implement Plan D. According to it, the allied troops were supposed to enter "neutral" Belgium with the left wing and take control of the border along the mouth of the Scheldt even before the German troops approached it, and two mobile French formations were to advance to the Tilburg-Breda area and establish contact with the "neutral" Dutch! Your will, dear reader, but

such plans are not made in more than an hour. They are prepared and worked out very well in advance! And plan "D" was prepared! Adopted on November 17, 1939, it provided, as we see, the immediate entry of allied troops into Belgium if the Germans entered there ... And this "if ..." did not at all speak of the allies'

inclination to respect Belgian neutrality, but simply of their weakness. There was a war where self-confident ones attack, but the allies did not plan an offensive, fearing a fiasco in the event of their active actions. The Germans were ready for the offensive, so they started it first ... Fourthly ... Fourthly, what could the Germans do but go to France

through Belgium?

The powerful "Maginot Line" covered the entire Franco-German border and stretched just as far as Sedan, already along the border with Luxembourg and the southern section of the Franco-Belgian border. There she, I would say, provocatively broke off, dictating to the Germans the only reasonable strategic decision: to break into France, bypassing the Maginot Line through Belgium and Luxembourg.

For the Belgians, sandwiched between France and Germany, it would generally be wise to demilitarize and notify both sides in advance that if they ever decide to fight, Belgium will allow both unhindered transit through its territory.

And such a position would not turn the country into a "passage yard", because it - with any serious turn of events - turned into something similar by itself - by the force and logic of events!

Well, could Hitler take the "Maginot Line" head-on, putting tens of thousands of young Germans into coffins? He, of course, had to go the way he did.

At the same time, the Fuhrer did not need either Belgium or even Holland by themselves - when Germany neutralized France as a serious rival, both of these small countries were drawn into the orbit of Central Europe almost automatically, especially Holland.

Instead of all this, Belgium and Holland built some kind of defensive lines, and Belgium even rebuilt Fort Eben-Emael in the area of the Albert Canal, cut into the mountain massif and controlling the bridges across the Meuse at Maastricht and across the canal itself ... The Germans took it in two days, landing parachute landing right on the roof of the fort! HOWEVER, I am not writing the history of the May "blitzkrieg" - the reader has a lot of literature

on this subject, which, however, does not always contain much truth ... And here it is enough to say that the Germans cut the situation on the Western Front even faster than it happened they have in Poland. But it was

not Poland! Of course, to crush the resistance of the Dutch and by May 14 to ensure the surrender of Holland, which had a diameter of some one and a half hundred kilometers, was a matter of technology in the figurative and literal sense of the word. It was not much more difficult to break through the same small Belgium to France, take the Sedan on May 12 and reach the water line of the Meuse by May 13 - as did the tankers of the tank corps of General Reinhardt.

The Wehrmacht and the Luftwaffe also coped with the resistance of the Belgian army itself - on May 17, the Germans entered Brussels, and on May 28 an unconditional surrender was signed. King Leopold III remained in the country. And a week after the start of

hostilities, the Germans were walking along

territory of France, breaking through to the English Channel and to Paris ...

As early as April 4, Chamberlain at the Central Council of the Conservative Party argued that Hitler's initial advantage had been replaced by the advantage of Britain and exclaimed:

"Now it is clear, at any rate, that Hitler missed the bus!" Now it became clear that Hitler was not late for the tank! And the tanks of Guderian and Kleist rolled along cheerful Gaul almost at the speed of a sightseeing bus, making up to 50 kilometers a day!

Duce remained on the sidelines for the time being. He declared war on England and France only on June 10 - four days before the Wehrmacht entered Paris and twelve days before the surrender of the French in the Compiègne forest (having received, by the way, from France even in this

situation a very sensitive rebuff). The British at that moment were just frankly flirting with the Duce. Even before May 10, a pamphlet with a foreword by Halifax was published in London, where there were such lines that the author cannot but acquaint his reader with them: "The Italian genius ... created a strong authoritarian regime, which, however, does not threaten either religious or economic freedom, nor security of other European nations. Undoubtedly worth mentioning is the fact that there are fundamental differences between the structure and essence of the fascist state, on the one hand, and the Nazi and Soviet states, on the other. The Italian system rests on two granite-like pillars: the division of power between Church and State and the recognition of the rights of the working class... while the German state is built on the ruins of the German labor movement."

The author of the preface, however, ignored the fact that for six years - from 1933 to 1939 - the Nazi state provided the Germans with the highest standard of living in Europe. And more than that! The American journalist William Shearer (an anti-Nazi, it should be noted), who observed Germany for almost a decade, wrote: ***"The practice (of labor camps. - S.K.), uniting children of all classes and estates, poor and rich, workers and peasants, entrepreneurs and aristocrats who strove for a common goal, in itself was healthy and useful. Everyone who ... talked with young people, watched how they work and have fun in their camps, could not help but notice that there was an unusually active youth movement in the country.***

The younger generation of the Third Reich grew up strong and healthy, full of faith in the future of their country and in themselves, in friendship and comradeship, capable of crushing all class, economic and social

barriers. Shearer had the opportunity to observe the May Blitzkrieg as a war correspondent, so he knew what he was writing when

wrote this: ***"I thought about this*** (about Hitler's social practice. - S.K.) ***more than once later, in the May days of 1940, when on the road between Aachen and Brussels I met German soldiers, bronze from sunburn, well-built and hardened due to the fact that in their youth they spent a lot of time in the sun and well fed. I compared them with the first English prisoners of war, stooped, pale, with a hollow chest and bad teeth - a tragic example of how the rulers of England irresponsibly neglected the youth*** "... Returning to the English pamphlet and Halifax's preface, it must

be said that, given the fact that it was written by the largest owner, it was no longer even flattery! But the Duce did not give in! After May 10, Churchill made another attempt - already in his capacity as prime minister, he sent a

letter to the Duce on May 16, where he wrote: ***"Isn't it time for us to stop the river of blood that flows between the British and Italian peoples? Undoubtedly, our peoples are able to inflict terrible damage on each other and severely maim each***

other, as well as darken the bright horizons of the Mediterranean with our quarrel ... But I have never even been an enemy of the Italian legislator ... ", and so on. No "rivers of blood" have yet flowed between the two peoples, and Italy could not inflict any "terrible damage" on the

English people (and not on the "oil" lords) due to weakness. But would Churchill have been Churchill if he had written otherwise? The Duce, however, did not succumb here either! He recalled the involvement of England in the anti-Italian sanctions of 1935 and

excused himself by saying that the honor does not allow him to abandon "the obligations arising from the Italo-German treaty" ...

For Churchill, however, it was more of a sounding, and in this sense his idea was a success - it became clear that at this stage the Duce would no longer stand

aside ... In fact, strange things turned out! Mussolini not so much wanted peace, how much he was afraid of

war. Hitler was not afraid of war, but he wanted peace.

Stalin did not wage war, and he needed peace even more than Hitler. The war was

needed by the cosmopolitan part of England and France, and above all by the United States. Nevertheless, the Duce,

unlike the Fuhrer, did not renounce anti-Sovietism, at least in words. But the position of Italy has not yet

played a special role ... Everything was decided in Northern France...

FRANCE, in May, fell apart no worse than Poland ... And the France of "two hundred families" was rotten not much less than "arrogant" Poland. Already in January of the 40th, the mood of ordinary Frenchmen was far from what the authorities wanted. Our plenipotentiary Surits then reported: "In contrast to the first days of the war, when, although weakly, there was still a certain patriotic upsurge, a certain fighting mood, now one feels great apathy and indifference ... In the cinema, when newsreels are shown, it is rare, rare when you hear applause at leaders. Sometimes, and even then very rarely, they still clap for military units.

Yes, the units did not have to applaud, although - as always in the history of people - someone fought heroically. On May 16, the strike group of General de Gaulle began meeting battles, the core of which made up the newly created tank division.

In general, everything and everyone failed. On May 18, Gamelin was removed from the post of commander-in-chief and replaced by the failed "hero of Baku" Weygand, who was called from

Syria. They hoped for Weygand - in the First World War he was the right hand of Marshal Foch, and a strong hand. Weigan was also known for the fact that he "saved Warsaw" in 1920 during the Soviet-Polish war, when the Poles themselves were already confused to the point of prostration, ..

However, Weygand was not destined to save France, although on May 29 he took command.

The Germans, carrying out the 29 times postponed plan "Gelb", tore the front like a rotten thread. And there was almost no front in the usual sense of the word - everything changed so dynamically both on the maps and in the expanses of France ...

The plans of England and France changed several times ...

On May 22, at a meeting of the Supreme Council of the Allies, Weygand reported his plan for the counteroffensive. Gamelin left, Daladier retired from military affairs, and Reynaud was both prime minister and minister of war. Externally and internally losing to his English colleague Churchill in everything, he was equal to him in one thing - in his readiness to serve the elect, so as not to fall out of their circle. On May

22, Reynaud brought Churchill to Vincennes, to the Main Apartment, around noon.

In the morning Churchill was in London, and, unaccustomed to getting up early, Winnie listened inattentively and was out of sorts. The Germans were clearly leaning towards the sea, Paris did not seem to be in immediate danger, so Weygand's activity rather annoyed him.

And he, obviously pleased with his report, was full of optimism:

"The German panzer divisions must perish in the trap into which they have fallen and which will slam shut behind them." These divisions must be under constant control. They should not be allowed any initiative... - What do you need for

this? Churchill inquired curtly. "Aviation and more aviation, sir!"

Churchill chuckled and said nothing.

Weigan waited and said more cautiously: "Without proper air support, success is problematic..."

"We'll see," Churchill continued to frown and think about what

then his.

Exactly a month remained before the surrender of France ... WEIGANT did not yet know that when two French divisions went on the offensive last night near Arras, Lord Gort and the brave Pownell did not support them. A day later, they generally retreated from Arras, and the commander of the 1st Army Group, Blanchard, had to retreat to the line of the Douai, La Basset, and Bethune canals ...

The French and the British were pressed and pressed to the sea, to Dunkirk. More properly called Dönkirk, this northern French city in the Nord department was small. But the port was very large. That's where the British retreated ... Actually, already on

May 19, John Gort sent his proposals for evacuation to London, and the order for evacuation through Boulogne

He gave rear services even earlier - May 17. He also sent the aviation of the expeditionary forces to the Island.

And already on May 19, the British Admiralty ordered the commander of the Dover Sea Area, Admiral Ramsey, to start developing a plan for Operation Dynamo - the complete evacuation of troops across the English Channel to England.

May 27 Commander of the British Forces in Northern France Harold Alexander received orders for a general evacuation.

And on the morning of May 28, General Pownall met with General Blanchard. The once cheerful, enthusiastic Frenchman was unrecognizable.
- So?

Pownell began... "No way,"

Blanchard replied... "What are you going to do?" - And you? "Here's Winnie's

telegram... He demands to go to the coast for evacuation.

- How so? That's... - An

order, my general... - What

the hell is an order - it's just a bucket for kittens! A

kittens want to live...

- Well, the cubs are their relatives after all, and therefore with them solidarity," Pownell tried to laugh it off.

But Blanchard was in no mood for jokes... He stood thoughtful and did not react to the questioning looks of Pownall and Lord Gort who approached...

Gort coughed and said conciliatoryly: - We would like, General, that in this last phase of the battle the English and 1st French army were together..." "So the 1st Army should probably keep retreating tonight, keeping close to us," Pownell added. Blanchard was furious: - When a week ago we went forward, you were not

with us! Now you

want my guys to cover your asses with their bodies before you get them out of here? For you

The Admiralty, of course, will scrape together the means of transportation. And for us? "But,

General, France has its own fleet!" - Where? For a thousand miles?

In Marseille? In Toulon? In Bayonne? It is useless to try - the game is not worth the candle! The French navy will never be able to do for the French soldiers what your navy will do for yours! Or will you, as future hosts, let future guests go ahead? Eh, monsieur? The protracted heavy silence was interrupted by the dusty captain, who jumped out of the Renault that drove up ... He silently handed the

package to Blanchard and swallowed the lump in his throat with an effort. It seemed that he had nothing to say and nothing to talk about ... Blanchard opened the package and, with only a glance, threw Gort and Pownell: - From Priou ... The commander of the 1st French Army wrote: "My general ! ***I can't go any further tonight. We***

we remain in the quadrangle of channels, the northeast corner of which is Armantières, and the southwest corner is Bethune. Farewell. Prio. Where d'Artagnan and his

comrades once raced across the night to Armantere on hot horses, such battles flared up that even the heroes of the Saint-Gervais bastion would not be able to resist here ... Blanchard read Priou's letter and immediately turned to Gort: - Are you going to Will you continue to depart today for the line Ypres - Poperinge - Kassel? As you can see, if this

happens, then ***without*** the 1st French Army ... - I ***will*** retreat. And you? "I already said ***no!*** "Then, General, it is with great regret that I have to inform you that the English Expeditionary Force must withdraw even if the French

1st Army does not. GENERAL

BLANCHARD was, of course,

right... Lord Gort needed the French insofar as they fought with the desperation of the doomed and could cover the landing of Gort's troops on ships better than these troops themselves.

The word "Dunkirk" was increasingly heard in operational reports, already almost ready to go to the pages of newspapers. And then into history...

About what Dunkirk is as a historical concept, perhaps anyone who knows at least a little history has heard a lot. Dunkirk is the triumph of Hitler's tank generals and the collapse of the entire continental war of England, the insidious ally of France, which suffered its final military defeat in Dunkirk ... In the kaleidoscope of the then events, Dunkirk was, of course,

an episode. However, in this, although bright, but outwardly private episode, one can also find a symbol of the entire world war in the West. To understand how Europe went to Dunkirk means to understand why she went to him. However, we, dear reader, probably already know this ...

What is a Sedan is also known to anyone who knows at least a little history. The sedan is an even earlier symbol of the biggest political and military defeat. September 2, 1870 the remnants of the French army, led by Emperor Napoleon

III were blocked in the sedan fortress by the Prussians. An unfortunate relative of Napoleon the Great then ordered to raise a white flag over the fortress. And the French surrendered with him

captured...

So ignominiously for the sons of Gaul ended the Franco-Prussian war, which - few people remember - was also announced to the Germans by the French.

Then, on the "ruins" of Sedan, the German Empire, united by "iron and blood", arose. United for the first time since the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, which for centuries consolidated the fragmentation and disunity of the Germans into powerless, toy "states" ...

A little over a year before Dunkirk, the Soviet plenipotentiary Surits, in a coded message to the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs dated March 18, 1939, reported on yesterday's

meeting of the Chamber of Deputies and wrote: "Almost ***all the speakers, despite belonging to opposite camps, sharply condemned the policy of Munich, called for resistance and firmness But then Daladier takes the floor. Not a single sound of justification, not a word of protest against Germany. A few arrogant and rude phrases addressed to the left, a couple of boring and without much persuasiveness***

assurances uttered ("not an inch of land") and the demand for emergency powers, which sounded in the hall as a demand for dictatorship against the workers, against democracy, against freedom. Most of the delegations responded to this demand with a thunderous ovation ... " Describing this, Surits

further reported that one of the prime minister's friends, obviously sent by Daladier to the Soviet plenipotentiary, assured Surits that emergency powers would untie Daladier's hands and allow him to turn the Soviet-French pact of 1935 year "in the military union"...

Already the next few months and the August Moscow talks of General Dumenka showed how Daladier "desired" such an alliance (needed by the French, but absolutely unnecessary for us) in reality. Suritz, however, was already skeptical in March and ended the code like this: **"Personally, I am deeply convinced that the dictatorship will be used rather to prepare a new Sedan."** Surits wrote this report

back to Litvinov's NKID, and his words about the "Munich policy" carried Litvin's, and not an objective assessment of a peaceful and reasonable solution to the problem of the Sudeten Germans. However, Yakov Zakharovich gave an accurate assessment of what was happening within France itself... Instead of a policy of national prudence, France of "two hundred families" pursued an anti-national policy of moving towards a national catastrophe.

And now the France of the common people was paying the price, surviving the new Sedan. And the reasons were somewhat similar ... To Dunkirk, as then to Sedan, France was led by the unwillingness and inability to look at itself and the world with a sober look and understand that a rational decision for France would be the realization of the simple fact that the natural leader of Western Europe is Germany. It is already simply because the Germans work better and are better organized ... Awareness of this fact should not have led to

the realization of the second-rate France - France was a great power of a great people in its history and potential. But the realization of this fact should have led to a natural conclusion—Germany must not be slighted, ignored, or—

all the more so - to bring to a white heat, because in a one-on-one clash, France will receive new Sedans over and over again.

And if someone third interferes in the conflict - helping France to "defeat" Germany, then the real, and not the "newspaper" fruits of the victory will go to this third one ...

One power, however, could save France without benefit to itself. It was Russia... However, the new, Stalinist Russia no longer wanted to allow anyone to rake in the heat for itself with Russian hands, nor to carry chestnuts for someone from military fire... This Russia realized itself as an intrinsically valuable phenomenon in world history and realized that it had the right act in accordance with their own national interests. And these interests were externally the

interests of the world. And peace for Russia was given not by confrontation with Germany, but by partnership with it ... If the French

understood all this, then immediately after the Pact of August 23, instead of vile anti-Russian and anti-German hype, they should have immediately disavowed their "guarantees" to Poland. And then there would simply be no war between France and Germany! As well as there

would be no new European war at all. It would have been Poland simply cut off to its natural limits - Poland, deprived of lands that did not belong to it, and a new, naturally developing Europe, where France - having preserved the "Maginot Line" and created - as a precautionary measure, analogous to her "Daladier Line" on the Belgian border, found would have its new place, taking into account the fact that the situation in this new Europe is determined by the Russian-German alliance, and not by the calculations of the "golden" forces of the World Evil, who moved their headquarters overseas.

France did not understand this and now received a new Sedan ... However, the Dunkirk catastrophe has also become a symbol of the collapse of the British army ... But it is not easy to share only glory, but willingly share shame. And this was just the case when the shame of Sedan was worth the shame

of Dunkirk. And vice versa... May was ENDING, and so was the stay of the 300,000 English expeditionary force on French soil ...

Gort's troops hastily retreated to the sea, and the fleet of Admiral Ramsey began to work in shuttle mode.

The "thread" of this "shuttle" the Germans did not tear. They drove quickly across Europe - for four million Wehrmacht soldiers there were already four hundred thousand cars, and every tenth was a driver. In the Kleist group, even one in four was driving! But in front of Dunkirk, this huge, in the language of a road cycling race, "peleton" braked sharply. The famous "stop order" of

the Fuhrer, issued on May 24 and suspended the German offensive on the Gravelines - Saint Omer - Bethune line, worked ... They said that Kleist had to drag

his
excited tankers from Dunkirk almost by the collar.

However, Kleist and the commander of Army Group "A" von Rundstedt themselves were afraid of the enemy flooding the area south and southwest of Dunkirk, which lay below sea level, and to a large extent they themselves became the ideological initiators of this order.

But there were actually many reasons for the appearance of a "stop order". So, on the one hand, Hitler, having not yet achieved strategic success, did not want to pin down and draw his mobile formations into private battles, on the other, Goering promised to deal with the encircled troops from the air.

There was, perhaps, a second plan - Gort was politely hinted that the road to the Island was still free ... Hitler did not need extra troops in France, and they still would not have had time to evacuate the equipment ... Perhaps the

cause and effect here turned out to be rearranged - at first, Rundstedt made a suboptimal decision and missed the moment for the complete defeat of the British, and only then the Fuhrer considered it beneficial for the good of the cause to present everything that had happened as a hint to Churchill that even now Germany was not averse to putting up with the British.

One way or another, only on the 27th the Germans again launched an offensive - when the British had already begun the evacuation from Dunkirk. On the 28th, the French Admiralty ordered Rear Admiral Landrieux to evacuate, but could not give ships. Admiral Abrial covered Dunkirk from the west. Gort opened it from the east to the retreating stream of English troops and firmly closed it to the French.

Abrial expected that only advanced detachments would leave the bridgehead, and the bulk of the British troops would stand shoulder to shoulder next to the French to the end. Even the sailor understood that this was buying time to strengthen the defenses on the Aisne and the Somme.

But the British have already decided everything for themselves. On May 31,

Gort was already in England ... On May 31, Churchill, having taken Attlee and Generals Ismay and Dill, flew to the next meeting of the Allied Supreme Council in Paris. In the empty hall, Prime Minister Reynaud, Weygand, Admiral Darlan and, for the first time, the aged Marshal Henri Petain, the future head of the occupation

regime, were waiting for him. Weygand and Darlan were in uniform, Petain in civilian clothes. Puffing up proudly, Churchill told the French that Dunkirk has already evacuated 165,000 people.

How many of them are French? Darlan asked bitterly. - Fifteen thousand! - Fifteen?

Just fifteen? - Reynaud, who had been lost for a long time, became even more confused and shifted his gaze from Churchill to Darlan... Darlan was silent,

and Weigan broke the silence: - But for God's sake, why so little? How do we explain this to France and the French? "But, gentlemen, it's all

simple," Bruce Ismay was calm and correct. "There were many of our administrative units in that rear area, and they were able to submerge before the combat units approached ... Darlan could not stand it: "What, the British convoys could not

wait? Ismay was silent. Churchill was also silent. He no longer cared about those damned Gauls. But then Reino suddenly cheered up:

"I insist on a joint evacuation!" "But I demand it," Churchill suddenly agreed unexpectedly. "It is a matter of honor for us to commit troops to the solid defense of Dunkirk for as long as it is needed!" Reynaud breathed a sigh of relief... On the evening of the same day, Gort sighed with relief as he cast his last glance over the receding coast of France.

Three divisions of Alexander still remained on the bridgehead, but their evacuation was in full swing.

Abrial pleaded, threatened, but the imperturbable Alexander took battalion after battalion onto the approaching ships, and on June 3 he left himself - purely in English. That is, without saying goodbye.

On the morning of June 4, Kleist's tankers finally washed away the dirt and fumes from their tired bodies with water from the English Channel. They had fun and fooled around, and 40 thousand French prisoners looked sullenly at these sea baths. In total, more

than 338 thousand people have been evacuated since May 27, of which 215 are British and 123 are French and Belgians. But the

share of Ramsey among the latter accounted for only 73 thousands. The remaining fifty were taken out by the stubborn Admiral Landrio.

Total: three of their own, that is, the British, still had one a guest from the continent, that is, a

Frenchman. Well, that was already better than one in ten. And Churchill decided that his honor was saved. Well, what about the fact that some French were not saved? Just think - on the altar of freedom (for the Golden Minority) it was possible to put larger victims ... All this time the weather was fine, and Hitler, having briefly stopped at the Berghof, called the chief meteorologist Dr. Dizing there and handed him a gold watch with an engraved inscription. The Fuhrer was pleased - the forecasts turned out to be accurate, and Goering's Luftwaffe sometimes provided up to 60 percent or more of success. A clear sky is the key to the success of aviation. Unless, of course, she has overwhelming air superiority. The Luftwaffe had it ... May ENDED ... And from June 5, the Wehrmacht

again moved into the depths of

France swiftly and irresistibly from the already reached borders,

like an avalanche...

In England, however, it was only the glorious first month of summer - island June. Nature once again filled with benevolent cheerfulness. However, political life in London was tense ... Even after the start of the May offensive of the Germans and immediately after

Churchill's arrival at Downing Street for the US ambassador in London

Joseph Kennedy sharply increased the tacit supervision established long ago.

Kennedy was not a supporter of the war and more than once urged the British to make peace with the Germans. He was also opposed to the entry into the war of the United States. Immediately after Munich, he publicly stated:

- I have long believed that it is unprofitable for democratic and totalitarian states to strengthen what divides them by emphasizing differences between them ... They should usefully focus their energy on solving common problems, trying to establish good

relationship...

One of his sons, John, agreed with his speech and wrote: ***"Although it is unpopular among Jews, etc., it is considered very good by everyone who is not embittered against the Nazis."*** The following year, in May 1939, John will visit the Soviet Union during his trip to Europe...

Now that France was collapsing, Father Kennedy advised England by all means go to the world. And sincerely advised ...

Joseph Kennedy among multimillionaires remained as a "white crow" ... On the one hand, he had a brilliant business acumen - he received, for example, a monopoly on the supply of selected Scotch whiskey to the USA, almost all of his available stock (half a million cases) was transported to the USA and provided more than a decent profit. At the same time, Joseph was too independent a

person to play by someone else's rules only to add a few more to his pile of millions. Being one of the richest people in the world, he was neither psychologically nor "organizationally" included in the circle of the Golden Elite, and this was already suspicious and dangerous.

It was difficult to keep him (perhaps to kill), but he had to be reckoned with ... And - to follow ... After Churchill came to power, the American special services also joined the agents of the British special services. The Foreign Office filed a dossier on the ambassador called "Kennedian", and Churchill discussed all the important problems with Roosevelt, bypassing his official diplomatic representative ... Roosevelt, on the other hand ... Roosevelt on May 26 spoke on

the radio with

his next "fireside chat" ... America was in crisis and

even the governors of some states, like Governor Olson of Minnesota, declared themselves "red" or at least "pink" - the president's direct appeals to ordinary people were a successful and correct social move. Roosevelt's "New Deal" on the recognition of the natural rights of the masses helped to overcome the crisis at that time.

Now, in a falsely "confidential" manner, Roosevelt talked about "the once peaceful roads of Belgium and France, filled with millions of people who left their homes ...", etc.

War - if it is not a "strange war", always brings disasters, but Roosevelt's apocalyptic pictures were actually far from terrible ... However, Uncle Sam's top servant knew what he was talking about ... After all, it was necessary to convince the Americans that they had no alternative to the progressive armament of the United States... In 1936-1938,

the American publicist M. Chalds published a series of articles... He reflected on the motives of the hatred of the "two percent" of the rich and the super-rich for the "New Deal" of Roosevelt. Capitalism was saved at the cost of moderate reforms, by 1938 dividends had increased by 40 percent, but here you go...

Chalds believed that the future historian would not only be puzzled but bewildered. But what he did not doubt was that "only one thing can change the position of the hating class, and that, naturally, is war ... Those who attack Roosevelt's domestic policy with particular fury fully approve of his foreign policy" ...

Outwardly - for mass consumption - Roosevelt's foreign policy was peace-loving, but would such a foreign policy be approved of by the Golden Class-hater? And already by the approval

of this class, one could understand that Roosevelt's true foreign policy was war. And proxy war in the name of new Yankee dividends. Military profits are profits from the production of

weapons. And America was producing more and more of it - which Roosevelt reported on May 26 ... From 1933 to 1940, the United States spent \$ 1

billion 487 million more on the needs of the fleet than seven years before. Seven times more were laid down and equipped with combat

ships - 215 (12 cruisers, 3 aircraft carriers, 63 destroyers, 26 submarines). 8 new (!) battleships were under construction! Expenses for

the army have increased by 1 billion 292 million dollars in seven years. A four-engine bomber then cost

\$350,000, a fighter \$133,000, a heavy tank \$46,000, and a three-inch anti-aircraft gun without a fire control system \$40,000. And since 1933, 5640 aircraft, 1700 anti-aircraft guns, 1600 howitzers, 1700 tanks have been purchased.

3200 US military pilots in 1939 flew more than a million hours - more than 300 hours per pilot. The figure - for those who understand - is huge ... Having informed the ordinary Yankees about all this, the president

with a sigh led further:

"I know that private industry cannot be expected to carry out all the capital investments on its own ... as envisaged by the defense program. It would be unfair to demand this from industrial corporations and their investors ... Having given the voice the necessary firmness, Roosevelt "calmed"

people and reassured corporations:

"Therefore, the government of the United States is ready to advance the necessary funds ... Roosevelt ranted, mixing lies and

banalities into one, but at one point in his radio conversation he surpassed even Churchill in hypocrisy and declared: "There is another side to the matter ... Simple decency requires not to allow, as

a result, military conflicts abroad, in our country some kind of layer of new millionaires has formed. The American people are disgusted by the idea that even one American citizen will profit from blood, murder and human suffering ...

Eh, it would be better if he kept quiet about this. Was it worth once again confirming the old truth that the hat burns, as a rule, on a thief? Meanwhile, in Europe, there was a war going on,

one thought from profiting from the blood of which "disgusted" any of the American industrial and banking "kings" ...

On June 10, Italy declared war on France and England. General Keitel, sighing to himself, called this step the Duce "the gift of the Danaans." Indeed, for the Oberkommando der Wehrmacht, this "help" was more of a burden. But Italy was now a factor of the second plan ...

On June 14, the German 1st Army began to break through the Maginot Line south of Saarbrücken. Under the new conditions, this became quite possible, and the breakthrough was made in two days.

On the same June 14, Paris was declared an open city, and on that the same day the Wehrmacht entered it ...

The end was beginning ... On June 18, the Fuhrer was informed of the desire French armistice...

Changes were also brewing in the position of the USSR, but favorable ones... In the middle of June, on the 14th and 16th, we made almost similar representations in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia about their violation of mutual assistance treaties. All three "states" were asked to change the composition of governments and not prevent the entry of additional contingents of Soviet troops into their territory ... The "democratic" press reacted instantly and in the right way ... And not everyone was happy with what

was happening in the Baltics themselves. The "tops" here always looked anywhere - to the West, to the North, across the Baltic Sea, across the ocean, but never - towards the East. The masses... The masses often look in the same direction as the "tops", but not because it is beneficial for them, but because it is beneficial

for the "tops" to provide the view of the masses that they need. So the coachman puts blinkers on the horse's head - flat plates at the bridle at eye level, which do not make it possible to stare around, and the horse rides at the will of the coachman ... However, sometimes - for the time being ... In the Baltic states there were many people who did not like and even hated Russia in general, and Soviet Russia in

particular ... However, there were still more of those who were satisfied with it. They understood that, just like the Finns, they owe their national identity to the fact that they have

long been among the subjects of the Russian Empire, and they can save it only by becoming citizens of the USSR.

This determined the regularity of the fact that at the end of July all three republics became part of the USSR.

In the same July, that Bessarabia was returned to Russia, according to which once a noisy crowd roamed Pushkin's gypsies ...

Bessarabia is a historical region between the Prut and Dniester rivers. For many centuries it, inhabited by Moldovans and Ukrainians, was part of Turkey. In 1812, on the eve of the war with Napoleon, Russia successfully completed the Russian-Turkish war, and according to the Bucharest peace treaty, Bessarabia went to her. This peace, beneficial for Russia, overcoming the intrigues of the British and French, was concluded with the Turks by the future winner of Napoleon, Prince Mikhail Illarionovich Golenishchev-Kutuzov.

In 1918, Romania annexed Bessarabia, and England, France, Italy and Japan confirmed this annexation by the Paris Protocol of October 28, 1920.

Already from what has been said, it is clear that by the summer of 1940 Bessarabia was the last unremoved "birthmark" of Versailles ...

In June 1940, on the basis of the Kyiv and Odessa military districts, the Southern Front was formed, headed by Georgy Zhukov. On

June 26, in Moscow, the Romanian envoy Davidescu was handed a note, the meaning of which was simple: the USSR offers Romania to return Bessarabia in peace, as well as that part of Bukovina, "whose population in its vast majority is connected with Soviet Ukraine both by a common historical destiny and a common

language and national composition.

Royal Romania, without joy, but also without wrangling, agreed. On June 28, the troops of the Southern Front, which had not fired a single shot, crossed the border and began to occupy Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina, adjacent to Bessarabia. The Romanians, however,

tried to snatch what they could, and their troops leaving through the Prut began to take away industrial equipment and valuables, steal cattle and railway rolling stock ...

Zhukov immediately landed the 201st and 204th airborne brigades at the most important crossings near Bolgrad and Izmail and provided them with air cover. In addition, two brigades of light tanks headed for the crossings at an accelerated pace.

Panic seized the Romanians: the Russians are using a new weapon - flying tanks. But in general, everything went without incident. On August 2, the Moldavian SSR was

formed. Behind all the troubles on the Western Front, Hitler had no time for Bessarabia, especially since it was part of the agreed sphere of our interests. Halder touched on this problem several times during 1940 in his diary in calm tones, with an understanding of the situation. And Ribbentrop and Schulenburg at the last stage even helped us settle things with the Romanians ... However, Hitler did

not like the annexation of Northern Bukovina, which had never been part of Russia ... BUT IN THOSE days, everything

was blocked for him by a sense of triumph. France capitulated, and he ordered surrender negotiations to be held in the Compiègne Forest, that is, in the same place where on November 9, 1918, the truce was signed by the Imperial Vice-Chancellor Matthias Erzberger, on the one hand, and Marshal Foch and Weygand, on the other.

On June 21 at 11 a.m., he approached the very railway car in which the ceremony took place in 1918, bypassed the guard of honor and climbed the steps into the car.

Soon the French arrived, led by General Charles Huntziger. The negotiations,

led by Colonel General Keitel, dragged on until June 22, and on the night of June 24-25, the fanfare of the Fuhrer's escort battalion announced "Listen to everyone!" ... The war with France was over.

The table was laid in the officers' mess. After the signal "Hang out" everyone sang the chorale "Give thanks to our Lord!" ... Keitel delivered a short speech addressed to the Fuhrer. He listened in silence, then silently shook hands with the speaker and went out into the

night...

France fell ...

England remained an unresolved problem.

ENGLISH troops left the continent for the Island, England

hid, but, judging by the speeches of Churchill, she did not think about the world ...

Commander-in-Chief Brauchitsch suggested that, in the event of England's refusal of peace, to go on a landing on the Island, but this was more than a difficult matter. The main ally of Britain here was geography ...

Hitler reasoned very sensibly: -

Of course, I stunned England, and America can't really help her yet. But Churchill is setting the whole English-speaking world against us and claims that it is Hitler who wants war. Well, I will publicly prove the opposite ... And Hitler really proved

it ... On July 19, he spoke in the

Reichstag in honor of the victors of France. The hall of the Kroll Opera was full of generals, some of whom are about to be declared field marshals by the Fuhrer. Only the chairs of the six dead deputies were left unoccupied and decorated with flowers. The meeting began at 19.00. The Fuhrer was

greeted with a standing ovation, he was applauded furiously, expressing delight and joy in shouts and gestures. Everyone was in a state of endless - according to one of the participants in the celebration - jubilation ... The Fuhrer's speech was

long ... - We were faced with

the need to revise the Treaty of Versailles and did it! We no longer need war, it is needed by world Jewry, for whom war is the most desirable means for making their fortunes. These words fell from the podium into an atmosphere of intense attention,

and the Fuhrer exclaimed in the same tense voice:

"The Allied documents we seized in Paris give good proof of what has been said! After our victory over Poland, English warmongers like Churchill and Eden insulted me and poured curses at me when I made an offer for peace... The Fuhrer paused and threw out a new phrase: "I'm doing it now!" I

have no reasons that would force me to continue the fight ... There was a constant dull noise in the hall from the involuntary fidgeting of

listeners dressed in tight dress uniforms, from the creak of belts and boots, from the ringing of awards and the rustle of shoulder straps ... The armed forces triumphed ... They used their

chance to victorious war. And at the moment of this triumph, the enemy was given another chance for peace.

However, Churchill had already promised the British "blood and tears". He did not want to offer them anything else, because it was from these ingredients that the flow of gold for the Golden Elite was eventually made up ... The English response to Hitler's speech on July 19, 1940 - laconic, but clear - came through the press channels an hour later. Churchill rejected any attempts at reconciliation ... Hitler

assumed this, and on July 16 he held a meeting with the Commander-in-Chief Brauchitsch, discussing preparations for an attack on England. On the same day, the first directive was issued for the preparation of the Seelewe operation - Sea Lion. In it, the

Fuhrer pointed out:

"Since England, despite her hopeless military situation, shows no signs of readiness for compromise, I decided to prepare a landing operation against England and, if necessary, carry it out ...

All preparations must be completed by mid-August. Now this directive was becoming promising real plan, and Churchill became more and more synonymous with war.

And England - which had not abandoned Churchill - still had to bring many sacrifices to the altar of the Golden Calf ...

FRANCE had already brought a lot of them, and on July 3 in Oran, Algeria, she brought one more to him ...

French battleships defended there at Mers-el-Kebir. Under the terms of the Franco-German truce, they were to be handed over to the Germans. But Admiral Marcel Jansoul received a British ultimatum from Admiral Somerville: either take them to England or flood in six hours...

War is war, and if there is an opportunity to prevent the enemy from strengthening his fleet, then it must be used. But why such a wild rush? Besides, even if Jansoul refused (and he refused), it would be possible to open warning fire. However, the British - when the term expired, opened fire to kill. As a result, 1,300 French sailors died.

France gasped, and Sir Winston, in his next speech on July 14, just dedicated to the day of the national holiday of France - Bastille Day, as if nothing had happened, explained:

“The British Navy has the sad duty of putting out of action for the duration of the war the ships of the line of the French fleet... The transfer of these ships to Hitler would threaten the security of both Great Britain and the United States...”

HE said it himself - Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill! The United States was formally still neutral and isolationist... However, this war was fought in the

name of their domination. And so let's take a closer look, dear reader, into these ***somehow*** United States more carefully ...

Chapter

14 "POTUS", or Beyond Evil...

In the TELEGRAMS that the "former naval leader" Churchill sent to President Roosevelt when he was just a cabinet member, the president was coded as "POTUS" - an abbreviation for "President of The United States", .. The author learned about this, having

already given the head ***the name "Beyond Evil"***, and the coincidence of sounds amused him greatly. Therefore, he supplemented the title of the chapter as it was done above, and informs the reader about this small amusing detail before moving on to the point ... Now - about the

matter ... The unforgettable

Kozma Prutkov recommended: "Find ***everything***
the beginning, and you will understand a lot "...

Well, wise advice, and we, dear reader, will follow it ... True, this advice will take us to times that are described more than distant. But on the other hand, as Prutkov assures us, we will be able to understand later something in later times, which the author describes in this book ... So, on December 21, 1620, the Mayflower

ship approached the northern tip of Cape Cod in the future state of Massachusetts ("May flower"). And from it landed a group of Puritan settlers from England - 41 families. It was they who founded the second (in order of foundation after South Virginia) and

the first British colony in the northern part of the country, New Plymouth. However, it could only be considered British in name. The political structure

of New Plymouth was not determined by King James I Stuart, but by an agreement signed aboard the Mayflower by the Pilgrim Fathers (not to be confused with the Founding Fathers of the United States, led by George Washington).

These "pilgrims" were led by forty-four-year-old John Carver, a former London merchant, and from 1609 to 1617, an emigrant to Holland for religious reasons.

Then he suddenly returns to England, hires a ship whose name has become known in history, probably more than the name of the Russian Aurora, gathers a group of fellow believers, and on September 5, 1620, leaves Southampton for the shores of

America. Carver, however, did not leave a significant trace in the history of New Plymouth itself. Elected governor, he died on April 15, 1621 from sunstroke while working in the fields.

The new governor for thirty-seven years was William Bradford, then in his early thirties. Bradford, before his "pilgrimage" to distant seas, also lived in Holland for a long time, which should be especially noted. The "Pilgrims" intended to

establish "New Canaan" across the ocean, the "City of God on the hill", but they founded the first center of true capitalism in America.

Warm Virginia, which was founded by Sir Walter Raleigh, a pirate, historian and poet, was ideally suited for the plantation economy. Therefore, it developed there from the very beginning, and in the traditions of semi-feudal and even slave-owning. The English settled firmly in Virginia in 1607, when Captain Newport's expedition laid the first British settlement in America and the first Virginian capital, Jamestown. And in 1619, the first 20 slaves were brought to Virginia, where tobacco actually became a monoculture. Delivered, by the way, on a Dutch ship. So in Virginia then reigned not only feudalism, but general slave system.

But the North from the very beginning gravitated towards purely capitalist relations, and the whites themselves

cultivated its lands ... And not only the English Puritans ... In 1621, approximately in the middle between Virginia and New Plymouth, the Dutch colony of New Netherland was founded, and in July 1625 The Dutch founded the city of New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island. However, these lands were Dutch only until 1664, before the start of the second Anglo-Dutch naval war. At the end of August of this year, the English fleet approached New Amsterdam, and the Dutch governor Peter Stuyvesant capitulated almost immediately. Fleet Commander Capt. Richard Nicholls

renamed the colony and city in honor of the Duke of York to New York and became their first British governor. This

is a dark matter ... Back in March, the English (!) King Charles II transferred the rights to this Dutch (!!) colony to his brother, the Duke of York - the future James II. Karl himself obtained these rights as a result of a legally dubious deal.

But Stuyvesant's surrender also looked doubtful. At that time, a naval war for colonies began between England and Holland ... Holland was then a first-class sea power, the Dutch knew how to fight at sea, as they knew how to do it on land. The Dutch East India and West India Companies established colonies around the world. It is sometimes noted that the huge Dutch

merchant fleet was not backed up by adequate naval forces (which in itself is an interesting and suggestive fact). But just during the second naval Anglo-Dutch war, the Dutch very quickly strengthened their navy, and their ships under the command of de Ruyter (in the famous Odyssey of Captain Blood, Sabatini calls him de Ruyter), breaking into the Thames, threatened London.

And suddenly like this - you live great, meekly, without a fight - they gave the British all their prospects in North America ... Why would that be? In the

same year when John Carver emigrated to Holland, that is, in 1609, a bank called "public" - "Visselbank" was founded in Amsterdam ... Actually, by that time, banks in

Europe had long become a part of life familiar. They were invented by the Italians in order to circumvent the church ban on usurious transactions for Christians - which the Jewish usurers were doing with might and main. And even the first "public" (not private) bank was first opened in 1587 in Venice...

But the Amsterdam Bank turned out to be a special phenomenon. It quickly became an accounting and credit bank for the whole of Europe. And soon he had in his pocket not only the own government of the Dutch Republic, but also other foreign governments. Neither

Charles II nor James II were economical, so they did not refuse Amsterdam guilders either. And for this reason, the Dutch possessions should have been treated carefully.

And yet, on you - they chopped off promising lands from the Dutch in no time! After that, Holland, which owned vast colonies on all continents, in North America lost them forever.

N-

yes ... What's the matter, where does such accommodating come from? This book is not a detective story. And therefore, I will not torment the reader, but I will say right away: in my opinion, we are dealing here with one of the early actions of the emerging Golden International. And there was a distant aim at the creation of the mighty States of America, united by this International, as the future world seat of World Capital. So the elite of the Dutch Republic of the United Provinces, led by the States General, simply withdrew from the overseas territories, before which it made it easier for the future American Republic of the United States to

becoming.

By the middle of the 17th century, the Dutch public debt amounted to 120 million guilders, and during the War of the Spanish Succession of 1701-1714, the annual increased to 250 million. If the Amsterdam Bank credited foreign monarchs, it certainly credited its own government, and almost all of this debt was due to the Wisselbank. And although Visselbank was a "public" bank, in fact it was an international bank, or rather, a supranational one.

For bankers, any war is pure profit, because it automatically increases the national debt of all the warring powers. And this gives banks control over governments, both financial and political. Accordingly, the bankers of different countries, including potentially warring ones, are preparing wars and financing them together. The Dutch Wisselbank willingly accepted English pounds into its capital, and the English bankers gladly invested them in the bank of the hostile Holland. It is the proletarians of all countries who still cannot unite, and the bankers of all countries united a long time ago! And if anyone does not have a

fatherland, it is they, and not the proletarians, as Marx and Engels claimed. However, we will talk about this later...

Therefore, at the origins of the Anglo-Saxon, it seems, the United States did not stand less weighty and the Dutch.

However, given that the then Amsterdam was not only the birthplace of Baruch Spinoza, but also the habitat of the largest and most influential Jewish community, then the true "founding fathers" of the United States should also include the tribesmen of the great Dutch philosopher.

Having peacefully handed over the lands of New Holland to the British from hand to hand legally, the Dutch not only were not actually ousted from them, but still flourished there, making the United States happy with the dynasties of the Van Cortlands, Vanderbilts, Van Rensselaers, Van Burens, Roosevelts (the same ones) and others... That was the very beginning of the "great American democracy". And we,

looking into it, can understand - as Kozma Prutkov promised us - if not all, then a lot ...

To understand that from the very beginning the future American Republic, still conceived in Europe, was carefully and carefully taken care of by supranational capital, that ensuring its future interests was a matter of special concern for this capital. That from century to century, the world's financial leadership has been preparing the ground for its future move to the United States. In other words, in the future, the center of the World Evil moved to the USA...

His colors were white, blue and red combined. These elite Masonic colors adorned the flag of the Republican Holland (our Peter took them as national ones from the Dutch flag, unaware of the true symbolism). The flag of the United Kingdom received the same colors after joining Scotland, which has long been beloved by Freemasonry, Scotland (hence the name "Union Jack"). The "tricolor" colors were also received by the United States, which was then transferred to the republican France of the Convention. And they were also transferred to the flags of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia created by Freemasonry after the First World War ..

SO, United according to the plan of supranational forces, the States are all more became the headquarters of these forces ...

As already mentioned, these forces were precisely the forces of Evil, for can the forces oriented towards ideals bring anything good to the world?

similar to those formulated by Winston Churchill? Can those who have in their souls one god, Profit, do Good?

The French moralist Montesquieu once said that financiers support the state like a rope supports a hanged man. However, this formula can be extended by saying that in the same way humanity is supported by Capital. In the second half of the 19th century, in the

same France that gave us Montesquieu, the book "The Mind of Animals" by Alphonse Toussenel, a now forgotten writer, a follower of the utopian Fourier, was published ... Toussenel, however, wrote not only about animals, and some of his thoughts were surprising accurate and bright. He wrote:

***"Industrial, financial or commercial ...
power is***

***not based on honor or honors ... It is based on oppressive ... trading
monopoly, its distinguishing feature is greed , insatiable greed ... All its
institutions are***

an imprint of deceit, illegality ...

***Where money reigns, there the dominant tone is selfishness, trying
in vain to hide under the guise of hypocritical philanthropy ... His motto
is every man for himself ...***

***The words: "homeland, faith, law" do not matter to these people
who have a coin instead of a heart ... For merchants no fatherland.***

Ubiaurum, ibipatria ("Where there is gold, there is homeland." - S.K.).

And by the thirties of the XX century, the gold of the world was almost completely concentrated in the USA ... So where was the true homeland of all those whose heart was replaced by a coin?

This stratum of people - if its representatives could be called people in the fullest and highest sense of the word - by its very nature crossed the line between Good and Evil, and then - as it progressively hardened and enriched - and the line separating the evil of individual deeds from a certain World Evil, already manifesting itself as an ominous global superhuman

force...

An individual bird acts like an individual bird, but when united in a flock, the birds acquire something that binds them with strong threads, although invisible, and to this day not explained.

This is how individual bearers of coins in the chest instead of the heart gradually - century after century and generation after generation, uniting into a supranational "flock" - acquired the ability to exist on the other side of Evil, no longer able to act otherwise than in the categories of Evil ...

For the time being - in the 17th century, in the 18th century, and even in the 19th century - the safest place for the Golden Elite was island England. Of course, long-standing internal island strife could prevent calmness there. However, the Island was gradually withdrawn - in modern terms, from the conflict zone, uniting rival England and Scotland into a single Britain. Only violent Irish heads did not completely succumb even to the Forces of Gold, but even gold is not always omnipotent! So, Britain became the "center of the world"

for a long time, and from some point on, the sun "never set" over this huge colonial empire ... Still, in addition to the streams of heavenly golden light, a completely earthly golden stream also poured into Britain ...

Time passed... The Golden Elite knew how to look ahead for centuries... After all, they were not only powerful, but also well aware of the possible directions of technological progress. And the fact that a person, sooner or later, but will master the air environment and high speeds, was guessed not only by science fiction writers two or three hundred years ago, but also by quite sober financiers.

Therefore, in the long run, the English Isle was no longer reliable in terms of its military security. It was not yet clear how exactly, but it was clear in principle that over time the situation would change fundamentally ... That in the future something would appear - which would later be called "aviation" - that would deprive Britain of peace ... In the future, the North American

continent was seen as a more reliable base, that and determined its fate ... The North American British colony-states first founded, developed, then - "liberated" and **united**, bought new lands to the existing lands, developed and supported them again ... And all - "for growth", for the era when the new country will be needed by the Golden International as a new center of the world.

Here it would be necessary to say about some of the details that complemented the "portrait" of this International in a very peculiar way. The point is that Big Capital urgently needed the presence of large Jewish masses in the New World. The idea of moving Jews from Europe in order to create a compact Jewish state did not belong to Hitler - it was first expressed in 1894 by the Zionist theorist Theodor Herzl in an article that was called: "The Jewish State." Three years later, the First Zionist Congress was held in Basel, and by 1914, two and a half million Jews had emigrated from Russia - but for some reason not to Palestine, as Herzl called for, but to the USA. In Russia, however, there were still more than three million Jews, but there was the emergence of a third, American, after European and Russian, center of Jewish settlement. The reason for the creation of such a center was quite obvious - the United States was becoming the residence of the World Gold, where the Jewish elite occupied an honorable place, and it needed a mass environment, a nutrient medium that was related to it in blood and spirit.

Conditions - internal and external - accumulated, and already at the beginning of the 20th century it became clear: "It's time!" In Europe, two new colossi grew at once - Russia and Germany. United not by the will of the Golden Elite, but by virtue of reasonably understood mutual interests in a complementary alliance, these two colossi could replace the age-old system of unstable "European balance", beneficial only to England, with a lasting European peace, beneficial to all of Europe and the whole planet. After

all, by the end of the 19th century, no serious European war would have been possible if Russia and Germany were in an alliance. However, Germany could start a war against the West on its own, but even the combined forces of France and England would not be enough to defeat the Germans - they were so strong.

Peace in Europe did not allow the United States **of some** people to come to the fore and become the

master of Europe. To make this possible, Russia and Germany were pitted and pitted into the First World War. Coming to an exhausted Europe at the end of the war, the United States took a very significant step towards world domination.

However, the two colossi rose again! Russia left the power of the Golden Elite in general and developed dynamically. Germany, on the other

hand, defeated and exhausted in the world war, by the second half of the thirties, came in second place in the world in terms of industrial output - after the United States, which had enriched itself in the war. In iron, Germany's share of world production was 22 per cent, in steel 24 per cent, in coal 17 per cent, and in mechanical engineering 14 per cent. And in Europe, Germany was generally out of

competition! In the industrial production of Europe, its share was 32.6 percent, while in England - 23.7 percent, and France - 11.2.

The proportion of Germany's trade with the countries of Latin America increased from 11.5 percent in 1933 to 17.1 percent in the year 1938. And the Monroe Doctrine for more than a hundred years proclaimed: "America for Yankees"...

Germany was in a real economic war with the United States, and Senator Reynolds told Congress that this war threatened to be the greatest war America had ever fought. Greatest! This is what determined Churchill's stubbornness

in rejecting Hitler's outstretched hand to the world. The Germans conquered the world quite quickly by purely economic means in fair economic competition. Therefore, they had to be destroyed by force of arms - since the Golden Elite did not succeed with the power of the mind and working dexterity. What was to be done? Undoubtedly, apply the tried and tested scheme and prepare for the Second World

War. And for this - again play off Russia and Germany. It would seem that it would be even easier to do now - Russia was Bolshevik, and Germany was anti-communist.

And suddenly everything fell apart - instead of a conflict, the Russians and the Germans concluded a pact, and then a friendship agreement. It was still fragile, but peaceful

connection. What should

have been done? Of

course, tear it up. And for this it was necessary to continue the war in Europe. Churchill continued it...

And America helped him ...

And already in the second half of 1940, large military orders from England to the USA increased every month. The Yankees sold—still only sold—to islanders across the Atlantic planes and tanks, guns and ships, machine tools, raw materials, military equipment and provisions.

In November 1940, the number of planes ordered by England from the USA alone reached 23,000! And the reader already knows how much one American plane cost. It's funny that with such a huge

Yankee profit in the European war, our plenipotentiary in London, Maisky, on December 11, 1939, wrote in cipher to Molotov: "**The *main chain of British policy at the present time is to involve the United States in the war on the side of the 'allies'.* That is why, from the very beginning of the war, every step ... of the British government is taken with an eye on America ...**" But the main goal of US policy was to maximize

support England so that she does not refuse to fight!

In order to prevent this from happening, the Yankees were not all ready. Yes that's how it turned out...

Britain entered the war with about \$4.5 billion in gold reserves, and soon this considerable amount was completely absorbed by military orders. England simply had nothing to pay for her unwillingness to put up with Hitler and her desire to enrich the United States more and more at the cost of her own tears and blood. And by the end of the 40th year, they were already pouring in England quite abundantly ... There was a danger, firstly, that the British

could all this
get bored - especially if Hitler once again offers peace.

Secondly, as already mentioned, England no longer had the money to go to war in the name of the

United States. On December 7, 1940, Churchill sent a letter to Roosevelt, where he informed the President of this without circumlocution: "**As you know, the value of orders that have already been placed or are being negotiated ... many times exceeds all of England's foreign exchange reserves. The time is approaching when we will no longer be able to pay in cash for ships and other supplies ...**"

It would seem that England could take loans from America, but .. But, alas, she could not take them, because she had not yet paid off America for her previous state military debts made by England in the First World War, which was also organized in the interests of the United States and gave the United States economic dominion over Europe for the first time.

And according to the Johnson Act of April 13 (again!) 1931, debtors who have not made their due payments are deprived of the opportunity to receive any loans in the USA ... The

situation became more and more interesting ...

And then America "generously" agreed to give the British the opportunity to shed blood and tears, without paying America for this pleasure, but almost for free - on the principle of Lend-Lease.

Lend-Lease is a system of transfer by the United States to allied countries on loan or on lease of weapons, as well as military and other materials necessary for waging war. The British (and in

general everyone whom the Yankees "made happy" with the Lend-Lease regime) had to pay after the war - either by returning the property received on loan, or by repaying the debt with goods, money, and other "acceptable for the United States" compensation such as trade and other concessions. So ... The Lend-Lease Act was passed

by Congress on March 11, 1941 by an overwhelming majority. America was not then at war with Germany and was not in allied relations with England. However, the lend-lease law was adopted specifically for England. Such "neutrality" the world already

observed during the First World War, when for 1 million dollars of an American loan to the Germans there were 100 million credits to the Entente ...

Now history was repeating itself insofar as the former were and the scheme, and goals, and initiators, and performers.

Everything was cynical and logical: since England, which is fighting for US dividends, has nothing to pay for weapons, we will give them "for a while", like one neighbor gives another fire hose to put out the fire.

That is how Roosevelt explained to journalists the idea of Lend-Lease. At the same time, for some reason, no one asked him - how can it be "loaned" or rented military equipment? After all, planes, it happens,

they shoot down, the tanks knock them out, and the shells fire irrevocably from the cannons.

Yes, and cans of stew are not always carried by soldiers in duffel bags as an emergency supply, and sometimes they are opened to irretrievably eat ... But no one paid

attention to these "little things" - how could one not admire the sort of "nobility" and "chivalry" of Uncle Sam ? At first, he dragged Europe into a war

that began because of the arrogance and arrogance of Poland, which he encouraged. And now "disinterestedly" gave Europe the opportunity to wage this war to a victorious end, not caring about payments.

"After all, no big war has ever been lost for lack of money," Roosevelt reassured the press and the whole world at a press conference on December 17, 1940. And on December 29, according to a cheat

sheet compiled by his adviser Samuil Rosenman, he also uttered another "historical" phrase: "We must be a great arsenal of democracies" ... However, even before all this - on September 2, 1940, the

Yankees exchanged their old destroyers for British bases, which did not fit in with the doctrine of isolationism and neutrality. America for the right to lease for 99 years bases in Newfoundland, Bermuda

and the Bahamas, Jamaica, Antigua, St. Lucia, Trinidad and British Guiana gave England half a million rifles left over from the First World War, several hundred of the same old guns and 50 old destroyers ... The aged "lion" of British imperial policy Lloyd

George grumbled in conversation with Ivan Maisky:

- Uncle Sam remained Uncle Sam ... Not very generous ... We pay for iron junk with the most important bases. Then the "lion" shrugged his shoulders: - But

what was left to do? There was no other way out... Lloyd George had already "forgotten" how a year ago he himself had suggested another and reasonable way out - to consider any proposal for peace...

In Germany, of course, they knew about all this exchange for bases - Churchill announced the agreement in Parliament on September 5 ... The Germans protested about this, and on the anniversary of the signing

Moscow Pact - On August 23, 1940, General Halder wrote in his diary: ***"America receives from England a number of naval bases in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans as compensation for 50-90 old destroyers transferred to her by England. Negotiations about the Azores (Portuguese), which are considered as a possible base for the combined Anglo-American fleet. America's desire to gain bases in Greenland and Iceland. America's intention to "swallow" England is very noticeable ... "***

And Churchill's "England" more and more dragged the country into a war not only against Hitler, but also against

England. the nationally oriented part was, perhaps, even ready to abandon hostility towards the Soviet Union and agree to an alliance with Germany, if this were the price for a sharp weakening of US influence on the course of affairs in the world. March 10, 1939 Minister of the Interior Samuel Khor

gave a great speech in London and said:

What if, in an atmosphere of increased confidence, a five-year plan, immeasurably greater than any five-year plan that any single country has recently attempted to implement, was implemented? This was already a clear and well-

deserved compliment to the USSR, because only it lived for five years. And the fact that the Englishman Hoare called the five-year plan "the great plan" spoke volumes.

But Horus said more:

"What if for five years there were no wars, no rumors of wars, if the peoples of Europe could rest from the nightmare that oppresses them and from the crushing burden of spending on armaments? Could they not then use all the amazing discoveries and inventions of our time to create a golden age in which poverty would be reduced to an extreme minimum and the general standard of living raised to unprecedented heights? For the leaders of the world, here is the greatest opportunity. Five people in Europe, if they were bound by a unity of purpose and action, could in an incredibly short time rebuild the entire history of the world...

The five people are Chamberlain, Daladier, Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin. Roosevelt, as we see, did not take to the company, revealing a very deep understanding of the essence of the problem. The

"Litvinovsky" frame is the Soviet plenipotentiary Ivan Maisky, listening to Chorus, he said to Churchill:

- It is difficult to imagine a more vivid example of hypocrisy, stupidity and complete misunderstanding of what is really going on in the world ... Y-yes ... Let's go back a little ...

As we remember, in February 1940, Roosevelt sent Deputy Secretary of State Sumner Welles to Europe with the official goal of trying find ways to reconcile the Germans and the Anglo-French.

The itinerary of the trip: Rome - Berlin - Paris - London - Rome, without a stop in Moscow ... The absence

of Moscow on the route was explained by the fact that Russia, de, discovered a terrible weakness in the war with the Finns, was embarrassed, and it can not be taken into account. Churchill colorfully painted our weakness in his next speech in January 1940... But both his speech and the defiant ignorance of

Moscow by the Americans were unambiguously provocative! They tried to inspire the Germans with two thoughts ... First ... Russia is weak, and the Germans should count on her help,

waging war with the West is not worth it.

The second was with a more distant sight... Since Russia is weak, isn't it better to make peace with the West and strike at Russia - on your own or together with the West? Hitler agreed with this thought, but he himself acted smarter - in three months he crushed the West on the continent.

After all, not everyone in Europe listened to Churchill's insinuations sober assessments of the true strength of the Red Army were then heard.

Thus, on March 18, 1940, The Times published an article by its war correspondent, an English general, who wrote:

"The Finnish war revealed more secrets of the Red Army than we have learned them in all the previous 20 years of its existence. She had, at her first real trial, the most rough terrain she could choose in Europe, and as her first serious opponents, the best individual shooters in the whole world. From

this test came out a completely different force... The Russians are really remarkable ingenuity... The offensive strategy was good...

The Red Army has engineers capable enough when they go about their business.... After three months, the Red Army was very different from the grossly

blundering masses that had begun their bloody career. The entire Soviet system of training is already changing, and at present the Red Army has experienced troops from which new officers and non-commissioned officers can be drawn. There is a solid foundation for improvement which, if properly built upon, will have a profound effect on the future course of history."

Why didn't they understand this in Washington? Understood! How understood this and generally everywhere in the world - not excluding Berlin.

But Washington's emissary did not go to Moscow. After all, the Welles mission had, as we know, a second "bottom" in which he brought to Europe not peace, but the encouragement of

war ... Along the way, Welles found out one more question - is it possible to create against the USSR, waging war with the Finns, the common front of the West ...

Sumner Welles generally had a certain "diplomatic" specialization. In 1933, at the age of forty-one, Welles was appointed ambassador to Cuba, where the regime of the "dictator" Machado was failing. And soon there was a military coup in Cuba, and the American puppet Machado was replaced by the American puppet de Cespedes for one month. And then there was another coup—already unplanned by Welles. And already this is dangerous for the USA. Well... On the roads of Havana, there were

three dozen ships with marine landings, and the unfortunate puppet of Cespedes was replaced, this time for a long time, by the American puppet Sergeant Batista. This is the track record of Roosevelt's "angel of

peace". The Welles mission was certainly an inspection of the course of the war, and I have already noted its systemic similarity to the trip of President Wilson's emissary, "Colonel" House, to pre-war Europe in the spring of 1914.

Only then it was an inspection of readiness for war, and not an inspection of war. But in both cases, America acted similarly ... Well, each criminal has his own handwriting, which you can't just get rid of ... BY THE WORLD, a little about criminals ...

In 1938, Bernard Baruch was a "significant" figure in the 20th century relations, invited one of Roosevelt's "gray cardinals", his adviser Harry Hopkins, to enter the cabinet not as Secretary of Commerce, but as Secretary of War.

That year, the world already smelled strongly of gunpowder, but all conflicts were still regional and outwardly far from the United States in nature - the civil war in Spain, the Japanese war in China ... They shot on the Latin American continent - but this way, out of habit ... the doctrine of isolationism ... And Baruch

believed that the War Department would soon become the most important body, and Hopkins as its leader would have enormous opportunities to advance ... The average American still chose the "isolationist" Roosevelt, and Baruch already knew what awaited this average American **soon ...**

Considering that Hopkins's diary kept popping up the names of Averell Harriman of the Union Pacific Railroad, National Industrialists Association President Howard Coonley, General Wood and Donald Nelson of Sears Roeback, Clarence Francis of General Foods, William Batt from the ball-bearing SCF, Eduard Stettinius from the United States Steel Corporation, Falls from Eastman Kodak, Sidney Weinberg, Goldman, Zaks from Continental Ken, it could be assumed that in the place of Minister of War Hopkins would have been on

place...

Bernard Baruch was always in his place. Back in the 1980s, the stockbroker Baruch, along with the brothers Daniel, Mayer and Simon Guggenheim, was closely associated with the bloody exploitation of concessions in the Belgian Congo, which was owned by King Leopold II. In 1909, the creator of Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, published the book "The Crime of the Congo", the title of which spoke for itself ... However, when another

Baruch's client, Thomas Fortune Ryan, was accused of making profits from Congolese companies using slave labor, he sneered: "I sleep the sleep of the righteous" ...

By 1905, the Guggenheims had entered the holy of holies of Wall Street financial circles, became directors of many companies and turned into ... big philanthropists. This did not prevent, however, Simon Guggenheim from buying the votes of Colorado legislators, paying two to two and a half thousand dollars per vote, and getting into the US Senate.

However, this was standard practice for the Golden Elite in all countries. Winston Churchill called the political "tops" of Britain "servants of the people", but in the Chamberlain government there were 11 aristocrats for 21 ministers. In the House of Commons, 181 Conservative deputies occupied 775 directorial posts, personifying and exercising the power of the "great families" ... And the assistant to the Guggenheims and

Ryan, Bernard Baruch, headed the US Military Industrial Council during the First World War. It was an emergency administrative body, 300 committees of which took under strict control all the key sectors of the country's economy, all the flows of resources. Baruch boasted that "the mobilized US economy is a weapon more powerful than anything the world has ever seen"... And he was right, because this weapon was designed to protect the residence of the Golden Elite... After more than twenty years, Baruch

was preparing to play the same role for the second time... Yes, just as the crimes of

sinners in Dante's Hell were varied, so were the crimes of those who were on the other side of

Evil... But the author will allow himself to give only one more - the last - portrait one of the sinners in that golden hell, where those who were worthy of it felt themselves righteous there and slept "like the righteous" ... President Harding made Andrew Mellon Secretary of the Treasury. This multimillionaire from a family of multimillionaires was, before his appointment, almost unknown in the United States, like his

entire family - money does not like bright light, it shines on their owners

and in the dark...

One of his compatriots, Philip Landsberg, later wrote that appointing Mellon to such a post was about the same as appointing Giovanni Casanova headmaster of a school for young people.
girls.

Called to guard the interests of the treasury, the new minister immediately introduced such tax breaks for the Elite that even she was not so much pleased as surprised by this.

Mellon was a distiller and, as the same Landsberg reported, did not prevent other distillers from drowning in their products, which was under his official jurisdiction, the Volstead law. The 1922 law, named after Minnesota

Congressman Volstead - also, by the way, Andrew - and better known as "prohibition", specified the 18th amendment to the US Constitution, which prohibited alcohol in the United States.

Even beer was banned in the USA, but underground "bootlegging" has become one of the most profitable articles of the criminal business. Gangsters like Al Capone became as famous as Hollywood stars.

And in 1933, the 21st amendment to the Constitution was adopted, repealing the 18th...

The mafia, however, could no longer be abolished... Moreover, the new situation created new opportunities - sometimes completely unexpected.

By 1935, Charles Lucky ("Lucky") Luciano had become the largest mafia leader in the United States, compared to whom the famous Al Capone looked almost like a kindergartner. Luciano enjoyed, by the way, the full support of the center of political corruption in the United States - the "club of voters" of the Democratic Party (the parties of Wilson and Roosevelt) Tammany Hall in New York. An excellent and ruthless organizer, Lucky completely reorganized the mafia, and he received the main support in this from the most powerful mafia neoplasm - the Murder Corporation, where the leaders were exclusively ... Jews. This bloody cartel had a second name - "Kosher Nostra". The union of Cosa Nostra and Kosher Nostra ended costly and

difficult conflicts between individual gangs and made it possible to ensure the work of large criminals.

mechanisms not only at the local level, but also on a national scale. And here the

unique ability of Jewry, honed over the centuries, for effective clan system, for the unrestrained provision of group interests, was very sharply manifested. This particular ability and talent for unity was valuable to the Jewish masses for the Golden International. Having created its American base in the New World, Capital could not lose sight of the old opportunities that had long been secured by this factor in the Old World. And NOW - a little about

cartels ... As encyclopedias tell us,

a cartel is "an agreement (alliance) of monopolies or firms belonging to different countries (but operating most often in the same industry) on the division of sales markets, sources of raw materials, on the establishment of monopoly prices, the use of patents and other activities in order to maximize profits ... "

The growth in the number and economic strength of these "unions" especially accelerated after the First World War, which was understandable - the Golden Elite of all countries was intensively uniting! And if in 1914 there were about 100 (one hundred) cartels in the world, by 1939 there were already about 1200 (two thousand two hundred).

Here is something about some

of them... Cartels in shipping, for example, most often existed in the form of conferences and pools, that is, agreements of shipowners on general conditions of transportation and their prices, on the distribution of areas of activity or - at a higher level of the pool - on the distribution of transportation of goods, passengers,

income and other things. Shipping cartels had names that usually indicated the service area ("United Kingdom-Australia conference", "Association of West India Transatlantic Steamship Lines", etc.). At the same time, the same shipping company could be a member of several cartels operating in different directions.

The radio cartel was formed in 1925 and included the American General Electric and Westinghouse Electric, the German Siemens

(Siemens) and "AEG - Telefunken" (AEG - Telefunken), English

"General Electric - English Electric" (General Electric - English Electric).
There

were fertilizer cartels: potash (originated in 1926), nitrogen (in 1928), phosphate (in 1933) ... In 1939, the International Potash Cartel included the monopolies of France, Germany, Spain, Poland, Great Britain, the USA ... The international phosphate cartel at that time united phosphate exporters from the USA, North Africa, Germany, the Netherlands ... Under the terms of the cartel, 50% of phosphate exports from the USA were shipped to Europe, 20% to Japan, 30% to Canada and Latin America. About 90% of phosphate exports from North Africa went to Western Europe; but none of these exporters supplied phosphate to the US. Chemical goods cartels arose at the end of the 19th century and

especially widespread after the First World War.

The soda cartel came into existence in 1872 and was governed by the agreements of 1924, 1929 and 1938. The members of the cartel were the Solvay monopoly, the US national export soda cartel Alkasso, the British chemical trust Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) and the German trust I. G. Farbenindustrie.

(IGFarbenindustrie). The cartel regulated the export of soda products to all countries of the capitalist world. The internal markets of the cartel members were declared exclusively their territories.

The aniline dye cartel, formed in 1927, controlled over 90 percent of the total production of organic synthetic dyes in the capitalist world. The leading role in it was played by I.G. Farbenindustrie. The cartel also included companies from France, Switzerland, Italy, Great Britain, Poland, the USA and Japan.

There were also cartels for non-ferrous metals, of which the most famous were aluminum and copper. Already before the First World War, 2 cartels functioned in the aluminum market - in 1901-1908 and in 1913-1914. After the war, a new agreement on prices was concluded between the main aluminum monopolies in 1923, and in 1926 a third international

a cartel whose activities were disrupted by the global economic crisis of 1929-1933. The most powerful aluminum cartel was formed in

1931 in the form of a joint-stock company called the Alliance Aluminum Company with a term of 99 years. The cartel was created by the largest aluminum companies in Great Britain, Germany, Canada, France and Switzerland. The shares of the cartel were distributed among the participants in proportion to their production capacity. The action gave the right to issue a certain amount of aluminum. The international copper cartel Copper Exporters Incorporated (established in 1926) controlled 86 per cent of copper production in the capitalist countries and effectively brought the London Metal Exchange under

its influence. The cartel included leading American and Western European copper monopolies, including American Metal Climax Inc., American Smelting and Refining Company and others. This cartel also collapsed in the period 1929-1933. In 1935, a new copper cartel was formed for a period of 3 years, which controlled about 75 percent of the production of this metal. The cartel included the largest copper companies controlled by American, Belgian and British capital.

It could not do without ferrous metal cartels. By 1939, the International Steel Cartel (ISC) was operating, created in 1937 on the basis of a 1933 agreement on the division of sales markets between Germany, France, the Saarland, Belgium and Luxembourg. Czechoslovakia and Austria joined the agreement in 1934, Hungary and Poland in 1935, as well as the British Steel Federation, and in 1937 the US steel monopolies. MSC brought almost the entire capitalist steel market under its control. In 1938, countries whose firms were part of the MSC accounted for about 85 percent of steel production. Cartels for products made of ferrous metals, which existed

regardless of him.

In addition to general cartels, there were cartels operating on the ferrous metal market **for** certain types of rolled steel. The members of the pipe cartel, created in the mid-20s, were firms from Germany, France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Luxembourg, the Saarland, the USA, Great Britain and Canada, and later Japanese and Italian manufacturers and Swedish importers joined them.

Finally, Big Capital also came to an unsteady agreement on the division of spheres of influence in the oil business... And this was, perhaps, the only case when Germany's positions looked more than weak... Here the Germans were let down by nature, which did not give them oil fields, and history, which took away their colonial sources of raw

materials ... The oil cartel united the 7 largest oil trusts USA, UK and the Netherlands.

This "magnificent seven" was formed by the American Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, Standard Oil Company of California, Mobil Oil, Gulf Oil, Texaco; English "British Petroleum" (British Petroleum) and the Anglo-Dutch "Royal-Dutch-Shell" (Royal Dutch - Shell) ... The French monopoly "Company Francaise des Petroles" (Compagnie Francaise des Petroles) worked closely with them in a number of cases. As

befits the union, where the Yankees played the first roles, this cartel, formed in the late 20s and early 30s, extended its activities to the whole world

and to all branches of the oil industry - from exploration and production of oil to the production and marketing of petroleum products. . The US oil monopolies that were part of the cartel were private. Royal Dutch Shell also controlled the private capital of Great Britain and the Netherlands. In

British Petroleum, 49 percent of the issued shares were owned by the state. In the "Company Francaise de Petrole" 35 percent of the shares by value and 40 percent by voting rights also belonged to the state.

As a result, the oil cartel was the most aggressive towards developing countries - oil owners,

because he enjoyed the direct support of his governments.

So the cartels—ultimately—were an institutionalized monopoly of some group of the Golden Elite. But this monopoly was already an international one, directed not so much against another group of the Elite, but against the peoples who were forced to pay more on a global scale. Cartels also made it possible for the supranational Elite to influence the policies of nation-states without direct political action.

Say, a year after the Fuhrer came to power, the export of weapons-grade aviation products of the American "Aircraft corporation" to Germany grew almost seven times ... And this company was

far from being an exception.

And can Germany alone serve as an example here? Just a year before Japanese bombs began to crush American battleships at Pearl Harbor, the share of US supplies in Japan's imports was 66.57 percent for oil and petroleum products, 90.39 percent for steel and scrap, and 90.39 percent for copper. , for aircraft and spare parts for them - 76.92 and for metal alloys - 99.33 percent.

And here is one more touch to the picture of US "isolationism" before the war they were preparing for Europe and the world...

fuel, that is, gasoline not from oil, but from coal, which was in abundance in Germany. In parallel, IG explored the possibility of obtaining synthetic rubber for the famous Buna-N and Buna-S rubbers. Both searches were successful: the Reich was no longer catastrophically dependent on imports of raw materials. And the "blood of war" - oil, and its "shoes" - rubber could give the Ruhr.

Standard Oil asked IG to share the technology. IG refused.
And then the

Americans developed synthetic butyl rubber - in some ways better than Buna. And "Standard Oil" immediately sent "IG" detailed information on the production process. And in 1939, after the start of the European phase of the Second World War, the Standard Oil laboratory was visited by representatives of the military

US Marine Engineering Department, who wanted to at least casually get acquainted with the production of butyl rubber.

And they could not do this for several years ... They did not they were not part of any cartels, and the state was allowed into the "holy of holies" only when it was necessary for the Golden Elite...

GERMANY had a number of raw material "Achilles heels", but the most difficult was with oil. The spring-summer campaign of 1940 on the Western Front was successful, but if the fighting dragged on, then both the Luftwaffe and the tank strike groups could quickly set in "anemia" - fuel supplies were small ... And in addition to a brief story about cartels it does not hurt to

tell the reader that on May 16, 1932, the First International Petroleum Conference opened in New York ... It was organized by the Anglo-Saxons, and the Anglo-Saxon oil companies also took part in it: Standard Oil of New Jersey, Royal Dutch Shell , Anglo-Persian Company, Burma Oil, Sokoni Vacuum

company"...

There was, however, another participant at this conference - our Soyuznefteexport ... In

1931, the Soviet Union supplied 5 million tons of oil to world markets. At the same time, a lot of our oil and oil products went to Germany. Then there were two famous joint German-Soviet joint-stock companies - "Derunaft" and "Derop" ... Gas stations "Derop" then stood in almost every German town. Their network covered the whole of Germany - not yet Nazi, but "Weimar". And such activity of the Russians infuriated the world oil "king" Deterding from Shell ... So the presence in the United States of a representative of the oil export authority of a state not recognized by America was not surprising. Actually, the conference in New

York was convened in order to somehow try to include the USSR in the cartel circle on terms favorable to the Anglo-Saxons.

The oil cartel offered to buy all of our exports (more precisely, a quota of 5 million tons) "on the vine" for 10 years at a certain price (in favor, of course, of the cartel).